

Pope Francis waves to the crowd from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, who chose the name of Francis is the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

(AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

The Americas Have Their First Pontiff

RACHEL DONADIO

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VATICAN CITY – With a puff of white smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel and to the cheers of thousands of rain-soaked faithful, a gathering of Catholic cardinals picked a new pope from among their midst Wednesday – choosing the cardinal from Argentina, the first South American to lead the church.

The new pope, Jorge Mario Bergoglio (pronounced Ber-GOAL-io), will be

called Francis, the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church. He is also the first non-European pope in more than 1,200 years and the first member of the Jesuit order to lead the church.

In choosing Francis, 76, who had been the archbishop of Buenos Aires, the cardinals sent a powerful message that the future of the church lies in the global south, home to the bulk of the world's Catholics.

"I would like to thank you for your embrace," the

new pope, dressed in white, said from the white balcony on St. Peter's Basilica as thousands cheered joyously below. "My brother cardinals have chosen one who is from far away, but here I am."

Speaking in Italian as he blessed the faithful, Francis asked the audience to "pray for me, and we'll see each other soon."

"Good night, and have a good rest," he concluded, in a grandfatherly tone.

"Habemus papam!," members of the crowd shouted

in Latin, waving umbrellas and flags. "We have a pope!" Others cried, "Viva il Papa!"

"It was like waiting for the birth of a baby, only better," said a Roman man, Giulian Uncini.

A child sitting atop his father's shoulders waved a crucifix.

Francis is known as a humble man who spoke out for the poor and led an austere life in Buenos Aires. He was born to Italian immigrant parents and was raised in the Argentine

capital.

The new pope inherits a church wrestling with an array of challenges that intensified during his predecessor, Benedict XVI, including a shortage of priests, growing competition from evangelical churches in the Southern Hemisphere, a sexual abuse crisis that has undermined the church's moral authority in the West and, difficulties governing the Vatican itself.

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Pope Francis: The Americas Have Their First Pontiff

Continued from front

Benedict abruptly ended his troubled eight-year papacy last month, announcing he was no longer up to the rigors of the job. He became the first pontiff in 598 years to resign. The 115 cardinals who are younger than 80 and eligible to vote chose their new leader after two days of voting.

Francis spoke by telephone with Benedict on Wednesday evening, said a Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi. He called it "an act of great significance and pastoral-

As archbishop of Buenos Aires beginning in 1998 and a cardinal since 2001, he frequently tangled with Argentina's governments over social issues. In 2010, for example, he castigated a government-supported law to legalize marriage and adoption by same-sex couples as "a war against God." He has been less energetic, however, in urging the Argentine church to examine its own behavior during the 1970s, when the country was consumed by a conflict between right and left. In what became known as the Dirty War,

being sought for arrest or disappearance by the military because of their political views, had helped others leave Argentina and had lobbied the country's military rulers directly for the release and protection of others.

Before beginning the voting by secret ballot in the Sistine Chapel on Tuesday, in a cloistered meeting known as a conclave, the cardinals swore an oath of secrecy in Latin, a rite designed to protect deliberations from outside scrutiny – and to protect cardinals from earthly influence as

truth, about the lights, but also about shadows in the current situation of the Catholic Church," Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, a theologian known for his intellect and his pastoral touch, told reporters this week.

"The pope's election is something substantially different from a political election," Schonborn said, adding that the role was not "the chief executive of a multinational company, but the spiritual head of a community of believers." Indeed, Benedict was selected in 2005 as a care-

in Europe in 2010, evolved into a crisis of governance. Ahead of the election, cardinals said they were looking for "a pope that understands the problems of the Church at present" and who is strong enough to tackle them, said Cardinal Miloslav Vlk, the archbishop emeritus of Prague who participated in the general congregations but was not eligible to vote in a conclave. He said those problems included reforming the Roman Curia, handling the sexual abuse crisis and cleaning up the Vatican bank.



Pope Francis looks at the crowd from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who chose the name of Pope Francis, is the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.

(AP Photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

ity" that Francis' first act as pope was to offer a prayer for his predecessor.

A doctrinal conservative, Francis has opposed liberation theology, abortion, gay marriage and the ordination of women, standing with his predecessor in holding largely traditional views.

as many as 30,000 people were disappeared, tortured or killed by a military dictatorship that seized power in March 1976.

In a long interview with an Argentine newspaper in 2010, Bergoglio defended his behavior during the dictatorship. He said that he had helped hide people

they seek divine guidance. The conclave followed more than a week of intense, broader discussions among the world's cardinals about the problems facing the church and their criteria for its next leader.

"We spoke among ourselves in an exceptional and free way, with great

taker after the momentous papacy of John Paul II, but the shy theologian appeared to show little inclination toward management. His papacy suffered from crises of communications – with Muslims, Jews and Anglicans – that, along with a sex abuse crisis that raged back to life

"He needs to be capable of solving these issues," Vlk said as he walked near the Vatican this week, adding that the next pope needs "to be open to the world, to the troubles of the world, to society, because evangelization is a primary task, to bring the Gospel to people." □

LATIN AMERICAN BRIEFS

Venezuela arrests woman for web posts

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's justice minister says a woman has been arrested for posting what he called "destabilizing messages" on a social networking site. Nestor Reverol says police arrested Lourdes Ortega Perez on Wednesday, after the computer technician stole the identify of an official from the country's notary public service to post the messages. Authorities did not reveal the content of the messages. Reverol told state television the government is closely monitoring networking sites to detect any messages aimed at spurring social or political upheaval as Venezuelans prepare for an upcoming presidential election. □

Fernandez criticized for diabetes remark

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's president is getting a lot of heat from diabetes experts after claiming in a speech that it's a disease of the wealthy. Cristina Fernandez claimed this week that "diabetes is a disease of the rich because they are sedentary and eat a lot." Health experts say wealth has nothing to do with diabetes, and in fact that in many countries the chronic disease is growing fastest among the poor. Liliana Tieri founded Argentina's diabetes association, CUIDAR. She told The Associated Press on Wednesday that "it shows up in the rich and the poor - there are no economic frontiers" to diabetes. □

Heavy storms in Rio result in fish die-off

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Rio de Janeiro's environmental authorities say a massive storm earlier this week washed organic matter into the lake at the heart of the city, leading to a big die-off of fish. Rio's municipal department of the environment said in a statement Wednesday that more than 12 tons of dead fish have been pulled out of Rodrigo de Freitas lake since Monday. It says the oxygen in the lake was consumed by rotting organic matter. Environmental authorities say they expect the situation to improve by afternoon when the tide in the Atlantic rises and feeds new water into the lake, which is fed both by sea and fresh water. □

New life sentence for Argentine dictator

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina's last dictator, Reynaldo Benito Bignone, has received another sentence of life in prison, this time for human rights violations involving detainees inside the Campo de Mayo military base. As many as 5,000 so-called subversives were held inside the base during Argentina's 1976-1983 dictatorship. Most were killed and made to disappear. This trial ended with the 85-year-old Bignone convicted of illegal arrests, kidnapping, robbery, torture and murder against 23 of the detainees, including women who gave birth inside the prison. Gaston Mena said the sentence provides families involved with closure. □

Nicaragua drug trafficking ring smashed

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The Nicaraguan government says Russia and Nicaragua have broken up a drug trafficking ring that supplied cocaine to Europe and was headed by a member of Mexico's brutal Zetas cartel. Police Commissioner Fernando Borge says that Nicaraguan police, with help from Russian authorities, detained 26 alleged ring members who have links to Nicaraguan businessman Henry Farinas. Farinas was sentenced last year to 30 years in prison for drug trafficking and money laundering. Nicaragua said in a statement that Martin Flores, a Mexican citizen who led the ring, was among those detained in early March. □

Catholics overjoyed at 1st Latin American pope

**DEBORA REY
MICHAEL WARREN
Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — Tears and cheers erupted across Latin America on Wednesday as an Argentine cardinal became the first pope from the hemisphere, and many expressed hope that he could help bring the

"It's a huge gift for all of Latin America. We waited 20 centuries. It was worth the wait," said Jose Antonio Cruz, a Franciscan friar at the church of St. Francis of Assisi in the colonial Old San Juan district in Puerto Rico. "Everyone from Canada down to Patagonia is going to feel blessed," he said

saying hello to a friend," said Bishop Eugenio Lira, secretary-general of the Mexican Conference of Bishops. "He will certainly be the pope who is closest to the people of Latin America. He knows the problems of Latin America very well." Soledad Loaeza, a political science professor at the



Worshippers pack the Metropolitan Cathedral during the evening Mass in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, March 13, 2013. Latin Americans reacted with joy on Wednesday at news that the Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, was elected pope. Bergoglio, who chose the name Pope Francis, is the first pope ever from the Americas.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

church closer to the poverty-wracked region that is home to more Roman Catholics than any other. Drivers honked horns on the streets of Argentina's capital and television announcers screamed with elation at the news that the cardinal they knew as Jorge Mario Bergoglio had become Pope Francis. People jammed the Metropolitan Cathedral in Buenos Aires for a Mass for the new pope, and priests said they hadn't seen such a big crowd in decades. "Francisco! Francisco!" the faithful screamed. Outside, a thousand people sang and waved Vatican and Argentine flags. "I'm old, it's difficult to move around, but today I had to come," said Nelida Bedino, an 85-year-old retiree. "As a Catholic and an Argentine, I thank God for giving me life to be a witness to this event."

after exchanging high-fives with church secretary Antonia Veloz. Bergoglio's former spokesman, Guillermo Marco, told Argentina's TN television station that the new 76-year-old pope — who is also the first from the Jesuit order — "has enormous pastoral experience" with a humble bearing. "You can count the occasions when he used a car with a chauffeur," Marco said. "His choices of life as cardinal have been to have a normal, common life." The new pope was known for taking the subway and mingling with the poor of Buenos Aires while archbishop. That common touch was evident in the new pope's first words to the crowd. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing, when he started saying, 'Good afternoon,' just like someone

Colegio de Mexico who studies the church, said he was a logical choice. "First, Latin America is the most important region in the world for the church," but one where evangelical churches have been making inroads. "So it may also be an attempt to stop the decline in the number of Catholics." For church leaders seeking growth, instead of the aging, declining congregations in Europe or the United States, "there are only two regions," Loaeza said: Africa and Latin America. Nearly half of the world's Roman Catholics live in the Americas, north and south, or the Caribbean. In Cuba, parish priest Gregorio Alvarez said he believes Francis' background could lead the church to focus more on the ills afflicting humanity, and less on internal issues. □

Obama holds “good” meeting with House Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama made a rare visit to Congress on Wednesday to meet with Republicans in the House of Representatives even as he conceded that the parties remained far apart in their talks over how to reduce deficit spending. House Republicans have offered a new budget proposal crafted by House

Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, who ran as the 2012 Republican vice presidential nominee. Senate Democrats, meanwhile, unveiled their own budget blueprint Wednesday. The nonbinding budget plans, coming at the beginning of the budget process, are mostly political posturing and are meant

to lay out each party's stance on federal spending. Many Republicans who long have chided Obama for failing to engage their party on the nation's biggest problems are applauding his newfound outreach — part of a concerted effort by the president to mend ties with Congress in hopes of

reaching a grand compromise on fiscal issues. “It was good. I enjoyed it. It was useful,” Obama told reporters as he emerged from the roughly 90-minute meeting. House Speaker John Boehner, the top Republican in Congress, said there was a candid exchange of ideas at the meeting but differences remain over the budget,

the federal debt and other issues.

The Ryan plan, which would balance the federal budget in 10 years with drastic spending cuts alone, is a nonstarter with Democrats. The White House said it would harm the middle class. The plan touts longstanding Republican proposals to slash funding for domestic programs, repeal Obama's health care overhaul and privatize the Medicare health care program for the elderly. “Ultimately, it may be that the differences are just too wide,” Obama said before the meeting, in an interview broadcast Wednesday on ABC's “Good Morning America.” If Republicans insist that their only solution is to avoid tax hikes and “gut” entitlement programs, “then we're probably not going to be able to get a deal,” he said.

Obama has continued reaching out to lawmakers in hopes that he can somehow reach a “grand bargain” that reins in deficit spending without hurting the economy and stops Washington from lurching from one self-induced fiscal crisis to another.

The fence-mending campaign started with an unusual dinner Obama hosted last week at a hotel near the White House for a dozen Senate Republicans and continues Wednesday with his meeting with House Republicans.

Obama, who also meets with Senate Republicans and House Democrats on Thursday, has shown a willingness to reduce spending on big entitlement programs — traditionally a taboo among Democrats — in exchange for closing loopholes in the tax code. Republicans, however, object to any more tax increases, insisting that Obama got his way with tax hikes on the wealthy in the New Year's Day deal that prevented tax hikes for most federal income tax payers, but merely delayed \$85 billion in automatic, across-the-board spending cuts. □



President Barack Obama turns to reporters as he leaves Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, March 13, 2013, after his closed-door meeting with House Speaker John Boehner and Republican lawmakers to discuss the budget.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

GOP senators add gun protections to financing bill

JENNIFER STEINHAUER
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WASHINGTON — With gun safety measures headed to the Senate floor, Republican members of the Senate Appropriations Committee have quietly added provisions that would permanently protect some gun rights favored by Republicans to a financing bill that would keep the government running through the end of the fiscal year. The provisions, which have been renewed separately at various points, would prohibit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives from requiring gun dealers to conduct annual inventories to

ensure they have not lost guns or had them stolen, and retain a broad definition of “antique” guns that can be imported into the United States outside of normal regulations. Another amendment would prevent the ATF from refusing to renew a dealer's license for lack of business; many individuals who do not own or work in gun stores can now obtain a license to sell guns and often fly under the radar of the agency and other law enforcement officials, which gun-control advocates argue leads to a freer flow of illegal guns. A final measure would require the agency to attach

a disclaimer to data about guns to indicate that it “cannot be used to draw broad conclusions about firearms-related crimes.” As part of his agenda to regulate some firearms, President Barack Obama recently signed an executive order lifting the ban on gun research. Other restrictions must go through Congress, where the Newtown, Conn., shooting in December has inspired members to seek some new gun-safety bills. Officials from the ATF have long complained that quirky laws passed by Congress hamstringing their ability to curb gun crimes. For example, under federal laws

the bureau is prohibited from creating a federal registry of gun transactions, making it hard to track illegal guns. Many of the provisions have surfaced in appropriations bills since 2004. But Democrats on the committee reluctantly agreed to make them permanent to stave off a House version of the bill that contained a new rider that would have prevented the ATF from requiring gun dealers on the Southwest border to notify their agents when selling two or more so-called long guns with detachable magazines, and to make two more annual provisions permanent. □



Judge Thomas Lipps, top right, presides over a hearing to dismiss the charges against 17-year-old Trent Mays and 16-year-old Ma'lik Richmond on rape charges on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 in Steubenville, Ohio. Both defense attorney withdrew their request to dismiss and the trial proceeded. Mays and Richmond are accused of raping a 16-year-old West Virginia girl last August 2012.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

Trial begins in rape case that split Ohio town

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (AP)

— Two high school football players went to trial Wednesday on charges of raping a teenage girl, in a case that divided a small U.S. town after activists publicized tweets and a video posted the night of the alleged attack.

The rape case has deeply shaken the Ohio community amid allegations that more students should have been charged.

It also has led to questions about the influence of the local football team, a source of a pride in a community that suffered massive job losses with the collapse of the regional steel industry.

The case centers on a 16-year-old girl who says she was raped by two school football players after an alcohol-fueled party. She was "substantially impaired" and was unable to consent to sex and suffered humiliation and degradation, Special Prosecutor Marianne Hemmeter said Wednesday in her opening statement.

But a lawyer for defendant Trent Mays said his 17-year-old client "did not rape the young lady in question."

The attorney for Mays' co-defendant, for Ma'lik Richmond, 16, gave no opening statement.

Richmond and Mays are charged with digitally assaulting the girl, first in the back seat of a moving car after the party Aug. 11 and then in the basement of a house. Mays also is charged with illegal use of a minor in nudity-oriented material.

The two were charged 10 days after the party, after a flurry of social media postings about the alleged attack led the girl and her family to go to Steubenville police.

Hacker activists have publicized tweets and other social media postings made the night of the alleged rape, including a 12-minute video in which one student joked about the alleged attack while others in the background chimed in.

The National Organization of Women has demand-

ed that the student be charged under the state's "failure to report" law. Attorney General Mike DeWine has called the video disgusting, but said the student didn't have firsthand knowledge of the alleged assaults.

Witnesses said the girl was so drunk she threw up at least twice and had trouble walking and speaking. She was also photographed

being carried by the two young men.

In an excerpt of a videotaped interview with ABC, Richmond said the photo was a joke. He contends the girl was awake and was a willing participant, the show said.

If convicted, Mays and Richmond could be held in a juvenile jail until they turn 21. They have denied any wrongdoing.

The Associated Press normally does not identify minors charged in juvenile court, but Mays and Richmond have been widely identified in news coverage, and their names have been used in open court. Steubenville officials have protested that outsiders have unfairly criticized police handling of the case and have given the town a bad reputation. □

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Driver indicted in NYC crash that killed expectant couple

TIM STELLOH

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NEW YORK — The man accused of causing a car accident that killed a young couple who were expecting their first child was indicted Wednesday on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident.

The man, Julio Acevedo, 44, who has told reporters that he was the driver, faces up to seven years in prison on the charge of leaving the scene of a fatal crash, the most serious crime he has been charged with. A spokesman for the Brooklyn district attorney said the grand jury was still investigating the other initial charges that had been filed: criminally negligent homicide and reckless driving.

The crash occurred just after midnight on March 3 in Brooklyn.

A 2010 BMW, borrowed and driven by Acevedo, plowed into the side of the livery cab carrying Nathan and Raizy Glauber, who

were on their way to a hospital to check on Raizy Glauber's pregnancy. The police have said the BMW was traveling 60 mph, twice the speed limit.

After the crash, the couple's son was delivered



Julio Acevedo is escorted from a hearing at the Lehigh County Courthouse in Allentown, Pa.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

three months premature; he died the next day. The three deaths led to calls, many from the Orthodox

Jewish community to which the Glaubers belonged, for the authorities to pursue and prosecute the BMW driver aggressively.

Acevedo, who is being held without bail, was not at the brief hearing at state Supreme Court in Brooklyn, but his wife, Dorothy, did attend. Outside the courtroom, she insisted that no crime had been committed.

"They're judging him on his past," she said, apparently alluding to his criminal history.

Acevedo had served time in prison for a 1987 killing and at the time of the accident had a pending court date for a drunken-driving charge.

Acevedo's lawyer, Kathleen F. Julian, who spoke to Acevedo after the indictment was announced, said he appeared tired and worn out.

About the accident, Julian said, "He was heartbroken." □

Autopsy:

Teen killed by police shot 7 times

J. DAVID GOODMAN

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK — The 16-year-old boy who was killed in Brooklyn by the police on Saturday night was hit by seven bullets, three of them entering his body from the back, the authorities said Wednesday.

The report from the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner did not specify which of the seven bullets caused the death of the teenager, Kimani Gray; that determination awaits further investigation.

One bullet entered his left shoulder in the rear, exiting in the front; two other bullets struck the back of his thighs, one in the left thigh and one in the right. Two bullets struck from the front, hitting his right thigh; one bullet entered his left side, striking his lower rib cage; and the last bullet hit his left lower forearm.

The autopsy did not establish the order in which the bullets struck Gray or determine the path of the bullets, which might make it clearer whether Gray had his back to the officers when he was shot, or whether he had twisted away after being struck from the front. But the findings alone that several of the bullets entered his back appeared certain to fan the flames of a community already distrustful of the police and increasingly incensed about the shooting of the teenager.

For two consecutive nights, residents in East Flatbush, where Gray lived and died, marched in protest vigils and questioned the official account of the shooting. The police said that two plainclothes officers, one of them a sergeant, had approached Gray after observing him break away from a group on a dark-

ened street in East Flatbush around 11:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The police said Gray had adjusted his waistband in a suspicious manner. Witnesses later told police investigators that the officers ordered Gray to stop. The police said that the teenager pulled a .38-caliber revolver and pointed it at the officers, who then fired 11 shots, killing him. Gray's revolver had four bullets in its chamber, the police said.

After the first vigil on Monday night, a smaller group of rowdy young men and women broke off and marauded through several local businesses, throwing items at the police and ransacking a Rite Aid drugstore. When a customer in the store intervened, surveillance video showed, he was assaulted by several members of the group. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: While watching the Academy Awards, I was disappointed that Andy Griffith was not mentioned during the "In Memoriam" part of the program. He was a TV star, but he made a number of movies, including two classics, "A Face in the Crowd" and "No Time For Sergeants." I know he died last July. Can you confirm why he was left out, and if it was an oversight.

-- David Moskowitz, Atlanta

A: Griffith was one of several actors and directors who were not included in this year's "In Memoriam," which is a video tribute to those who died in the past year. The New York Times reported last month that there are usually about 30-40 spots in the montage, which has been a part of the Academy Awards broadcast since 1994.

A committee of members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is charged with deciding who is included, but the committee members' names are "discreetly concealed from other members and the public," to avoid lobbying efforts.

"So for those friends who are on this list tonight, and many others who aren't, we thank you for the memories," Ben Affleck said when introducing the segment this year.

Q: I have heard many different answers on how much the Girl Scouts earn from a box of cookies. Can you straighten this out?

-- John A. Milani, Fayetteville, Ga.

A: A box of cookies can cost anywhere from \$3.50 to \$5, which is determined by the local council, Anna Maria Chavez, CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA, told CBSNews.com early last month. She said that if a box costs \$4, she estimates 50 percent, or \$2 per box, "is retained by the local Girl Scout council to support local programs and facilities."

Another 25 percent is spent on rewards for the girls and "troop proceeds," and the other 25 percent "pays the baker for the wholesale cost of the product," Chavez said.

Bakeries in Sioux City, S.D., and Louisville, Ky., make the cookies.

Q: Why do meteors explode in the atmosphere?

-- Mike Cooper, Atlanta

A: Meteors and other space debris travel through the vacuum of space at extremely high speeds. When a meteor enters the Earth's atmosphere, it creates friction and pressure that cause the meteor to heat and glow before it explodes or shatters into smaller pieces, most often in the part of the atmosphere called the mesosphere.

Most meteors disintegrate before they reach Earth. The meteor that exploded about 12 to 15 miles over Russia on Feb. 15 likely was 55 to 65 feet in diameter and weighed about 10,000 tons. NASA reported that the meteor exploded with the force of somewhere between 440 and 500 kilotons of TNT, or more than 30 to 40 times the energy of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. Only small pieces have been recovered.

Q: How much do Cabinet members, such as the secretary of state, get paid? Do they qualify for federal pensions?

-- Joe Sappington, Lawrenceville, Ga.

A: The 15 chiefs of the executive departments who make up the Cabinet made \$199,700 in 2012, according to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Retirement benefits and pensions for Cabinet members, and other federal employees, are determined by the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), and are based on years of service and salary levels, among other factors. They also participate in Social Security. □



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4 killed at NY shops; police search for suspect

JOHN KEKIS
MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

HERKIMER, New York (AP)

— A man suspected of shooting to death four people and wounding two others was believed to be in an abandoned building surrounded by police Wednesday evening, police said.

Police officers were fired on from the building while looking for 64-year-old Kurt Myers, state police Superintendent Joseph D'Amico said. D'Amico said at least one officer returned fire, but Myers' status was uncertain.

"We're in no rush to bring this to a conclusion," D'Amico said, adding that the main objective was to make sure no one else was hurt. Police said the rampage started with a fire in Myers' apartment in the village of Mohawk on Wednesday morning. D'Amico said the gunman drove to a barber shop

around the corner and used a shotgun shot to kill two customers, whom he identified as Harry Montgomery, 68, and Michael Rancier, 57. The shop's owner, John Seymour, and another customer, Dan Haslauer, were listed in critical condition at a regional hospital.

D'Amico said the gunman then drove to a mechanic's shop in nearby Herkimer and used the shotgun to kill Thomas Stefka, an employee, and Michael Renshaw, a customer.

"Everybody's on lockdown, all the schools, the college, the village," said Amanda Viscomi, Herkimer's acting clerk-treasurer. "It's very, very scary."

Myers' only known police record was a 1973 drunken



People stand outside the Empire Diner near the police line as officials search for a suspect in two shootings that killed four and injured at least two on, Wednesday, March 13, 2013, in Herkimer, N.Y. (AP Photo/Mike Groll)

driving arrest.

D'Amico said police had had no communication with Myers.

Michele Mlinar, who tends bar at Cangee's Bar and Grille in Herkimer, said Myers frequently went in and had a bottle or two of beer and left without speaking

to anyone. She said he was always alone and she didn't even know his name

where you'd say, "Oh, it would never happen here." □

Immigrant groups sue US border agencies

MANUEL VALDES
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Immigrant advocacy groups have filed nearly a dozen complaints and lawsuits against U.S. Customs and Border Protection across the country, claiming federal agents and officers mistreated and discriminated against illegal immigrants and U.S. citizens alike.

The groups alleged Wednesday that officers at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D.C., were complicit in sending a 4-year-old American girl to Guatemala without giving her parents a chance to retrieve her. Officers also detained a naturalized citizen who had been

working with farmworkers in New York, kept women in cold detention cells in Texas and lied on an arrest report that led to an illegal immigrant's detention in Washington state, the advocacy groups said.

The complaints are the latest in a series of legal actions taken against U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Border Patrol from immigrant advocacy groups, who have long sought to reform the agency's conduct on the southern and northern border. The cases involve federal administrative complaints against the agency and lawsuits filed in federal court.

Some seek monetary dam-

ages.

"By filing these cases, we're aiming to send a message to CBP that it's not above the law," said Trina Real-muto of the Boston-based National Immigration Project.

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection statement said the agency can't comment on pending litigation, but adds that it stresses honor and integrity from its officers and agents.

"We do not tolerate misconduct or abuse within our ranks and we fully cooperate with all investigations of alleged unlawful conduct, on or off duty, by any of our CBP employees and contractors," the statement said. □



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First Course

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dressed with your choice of dressing

Second Course

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As tensions continue:

North Korea makes sexist jab at South's president

FOSTER KLUG
HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's first public, senior-level mention of South Korea's first female president ended up being a sexist jab. The body that controls North Korea's military complained Wednesday about the "venomous swish" of her skirt. But despite that swipe, and a continuing torrent of rhetoric from Pyongyang threatening nuclear war and other mayhem, President Park Geun-hye is sticking by her campaign vow to reach out to North Korea's young leader, Kim Jong Un, and to send the country much-needed humanitarian aid. Public frustration with the last five years of North-South relations, which saw North Korean nuclear tests, long-range rocket launch-

es and attacks that left dozens of South Koreans dead, is a big part of the reason Park is trying to build trust with Pyongyang, even as she and South Korea's military promise to respond forcefully to any possible attack from the North. In recent days, North Korea has vowed "merciless" retaliation and said it will no longer abide by the armistice that ended the Korean War. Pyongyang is angry about ongoing U.S.-South Korean military drills and about new U.N. sanctions, issued over the North's December long-range rocket launch, which the U.N. called a cover for a banned missile test, and its third underground nuclear explosion, conducted Feb. 12. On Wednesday, an unidentified spokesman for the North Korean National Defense Commission's armed



South Korean President Park Geun-hye, third from left, pushes a cart to a counter to pay for her purchases at a retail store in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, March 13, 2013.
(AP Photo/Yonhap, Ahn Jung-won)

forces ministry repeated those threats while decrying South Korea's own recent rhetoric, including a warning from Seoul that North Korea's government will "evaporate from the

face of the Earth" if it ever uses a nuclear weapon. "This frenzy kicked up by the South Korean warmongers is in no way irrelevant with the venomous swish of skirt made by the one who

again occupies" the presidential Blue House, the North Korean spokesman said in a statement. It was the first government criticism of Park to be reported by major North Korean media since her Dec. 19 election.

Park, the daughter of late South Korean dictator President Park Chung-hee, took office Feb. 25. She lived in the Blue House as a girl and, starting from age 22, served for five years as her father's first lady after a gunman claiming orders from North Korea killed her mother in a botched attack targeting Park Chung-hee.

The term "swish of skirt" is often used in Korean to describe women acting in a way seen as overly aggressive, such as housewives trying to micromanage all aspects of their children's educations. □

Police blamed for nearly all Egypt revolt deaths

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The highest-level inquiry into the deaths of nearly 900 protesters in Egypt's uprising has concluded that police were behind nearly all the killings and used snipers on roof-



In this Jan. 28, 2011 photo, Egyptian anti-government activists clash with riot police in Cairo, Egypt.

ing account of the killings and determines that the deadly force used could only have been authorized by Hosni Mubarak's security chief, with the ousted president's full knowledge. The report of the fact-finding commission, cre-

police commanders. It is likely also to fuel calls for reforming the powerful security forces and lead to prosecutions of members of the police force. The findings were leaked at a sensitive time for the country's police. Still hated by most Egyptians, the force is in upheaval, with segments of police on strike and its chief, Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim, pleading not to drag it into politics. The force is also facing a challenge from Islamist groups threatening to set up "popular committees" to fill what they call a security vacuum created by the police strike. Part of the force also is protesting what some officers see as an attempt by Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood to control the force. The Brotherhood denies the charge. The Interior Ministry, which controls the police, has repeatedly rejected charges that it bore responsibility for the killings in Cairo and other cities during the 18-day uprising that began on Jan. 25, 2011.

and ended with Mubarak stepping down. In contrast, the pro-democracy activists behind the uprising have long maintained that police were to blame. Mubarak and el-Adly, the second most powerful figure after the ousted leader, were convicted and sentenced to life in jail in June 2012 for failing to stop the killings, but the two have successfully appealed their convictions. The six top police commanders put on trial with Mubarak and el-Adly — including the head of security in Cairo and the commander of the riot police — were acquitted of charges related to the killings. The prosecution appealed that verdict and a new trial of the eight will start next month.

The report was submitted to Morsi and the nation's top prosecutor late last year. Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected president, has repeatedly vowed to seek retribution for the victims of the revolution and has ordered pensions and monetary compensation

for families of the dead and wounded. He has also decreed the creation of a special prosecution office to investigate and refer to trials criminal cases related to the uprising.

One of the report's authors, lawyer and rights activist Mohsen Bahnasy, said he planned to submit relevant parts of the report to the prosecution in the Mubarak case as well as to other courts trying policemen charged with killing protesters. In the past two years, trials of policemen over protester killings have almost all ended with acquittals. It is up to the top prosecutor to officially request that the report be included in the new Mubarak trial, according to human rights lawyer Gamal Eid. Police brutality during Mubarak's 29 years in office was a key cause of the uprising, but the army generals who took over for him, and Morsi, who followed them, have so far failed to reform the force. □

tops overlooking Cairo's Tahrir Square to shoot into the huge crowds. The report, parts of which were obtained by The Associated Press, is the most authoritative and sweep-

ated by Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, could weigh heavily in the upcoming retrial of Mubarak, as well as his security chief, former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly, and six top

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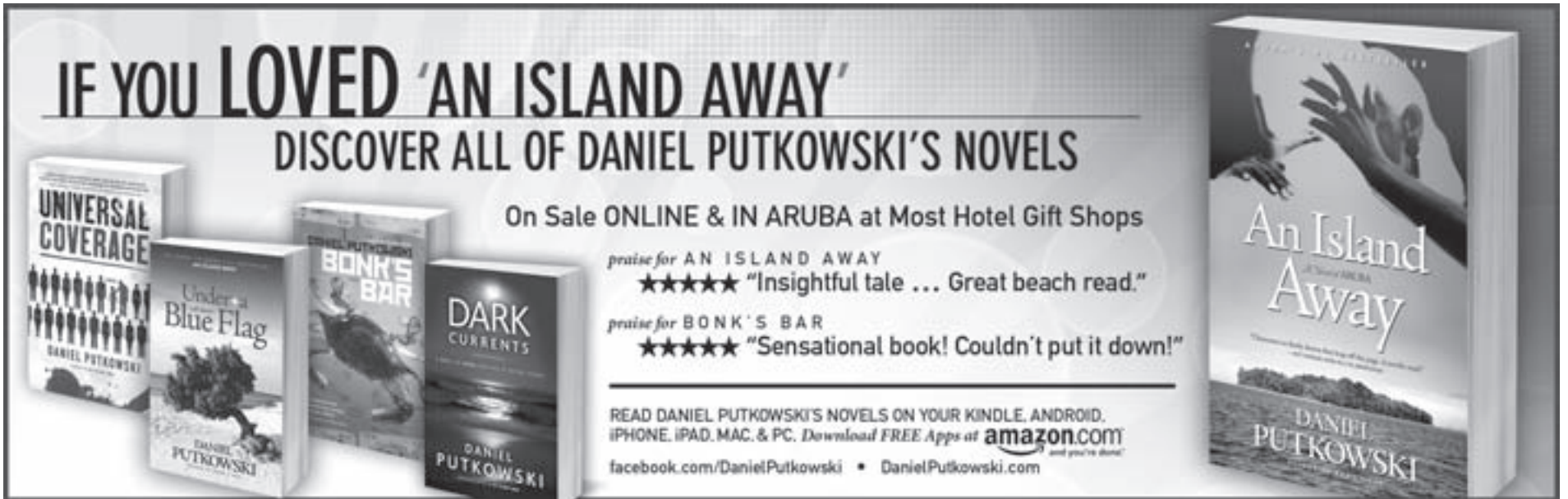
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European parliament rejects bloc's budget agreement

JAMES KANTER

© 2013 New York Times

BRUSSELS — The lawmakers of the European Union gave austerity a poke in the eye Wednesday by overwhelmingly rejecting the bloc's proposed budget of 960 billion euros in its current form.

EU leaders deadlocked over the seven-year plan in November but reached a deal last month after a 24-hour marathon of talks that resulted in spending cuts for the first time in the union's history.

Lawmakers at the European Parliament cast doubt on that plan Wednesday, casting 506 votes in favor of a resolution demanding significant changes to the way the money should be spent and the option to raise the overall sum in the coming years.

There were 161 votes

against the resolution and 23 abstentions.

The union's budget — for farming, transportation and other infrastructure, and big research projects — amounts to about 1 percent of the bloc's estimated gross domestic product over its seven-year span. But it involves furious horse-trading as leaders focus on getting the best deal for their own countries, rather than putting the emphasis on pan-European considerations.

The opposition from the Parliament, which was given the formal power to veto budgets under the Lisbon Treaty of 2009, presents a significant hurdle. As a result of the vote Wednesday, the governments of the union's 27 member states must now work out another compromise — this time with Parliament. The

process could take months. "It was foreseeable that the European Parliament would refuse," Martin Schulz, the president of the legislature, said at a news conference after the vote. "We don't want to see the

European Union going in the direction of a deficit union." The Parliament's resolution called on EU governments to settle their outstanding bills and to give scope to the Parliament and to EU governments to

move funds among different areas of the budget to meet needs as they arise. That means money that might ordinarily go unspent would be spent, but without changing the overall budget figure.

Schulz said he would formally present the resolution voted on Wednesday to EU leaders when they gathered in Brussels for a two-day summit meeting on the bloc's economy starting Thursday evening.

The leaders of the 17 countries of the euro area will hold a separate meeting Thursday night that is to be attended by the newly elected center-right president of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades.

On Friday, eurozone finance ministers are expected to assess ways of overcoming the remaining obstacles to a deal. □



The president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, greets Israeli President Shimon Peres in Strasbourg, eastern France, Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

(AP Photo/Christian Lutz)

Saudi Arabia executes 7 men after appeals rejected

A. AL-SHIHRI

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)

— Seven Saudi men convicted of theft, looting and armed robbery were executed on Wednesday, according to the country's official news agency, more than a week after their families and a rights group appealed to the king for clemency.

The executions took place in Abha, a city in the southern region of Asir, the Saudi Press Agency said.

A resident who witnessed the execution said the seven were shot dead by a firing squad, a first in the kingdom, which traditional-

ly has beheaded convicts sentenced to death.

The witness spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared retribution.

Amnesty International called the executions an "act of sheer brutality."

"We are outraged by the execution of seven men in Saudi Arabia this morning. We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances, but this case has been particularly shocking," said Philip Luther, Amnesty's Middle East and North Africa director.

"It is a bloody day when a government executes seven people on the grounds of 'confessions' obtained

under torture, submitted at a trial where they had no legal representation or recourse to appeal," Luther said.

The New-York based Human Rights Watch said at least two of the seven were under 18 at the time of the alleged crimes.

"These executions are yet another example of Saudi Arabia's complete disregard of international human rights standards," said Eric Goldstein, deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch. "Saudi authorities need to uphold their human rights obligations and cease these horrifying executions of juvenile

offenders."

The south has been marginalized and suffered discrimination by the powerful central region where the capital, Riyadh, and the holy shrines of Mecca and Medina are located.

The seven were arrested in 2006 and received death sentences in 2009, a Saudi newspaper reported at the time.

The case was back in focus after Human Rights Watch earlier this month called for the sentences to be canceled because the men were juveniles at the time of their arrest.

One of the men told The Associated Press in early

March that he was only 15 when he was arrested as part of a ring that stole jewelry in 2004 and 2005. Nasser al-Qahtani said he was tortured to confess and had no access to lawyers. □

Al-Qahtani said that during the years-long trial, he only faced the judge three times and when the men tried to complain to the judge about the torture or show torture marks on their bodies, they were ignored. He also said the judge never assigned him a lawyer. The original sentences called for death by firing squad and crucifixion. □

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Germany:

Authorities move against Islamic extremists

DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — German authorities banned three ultra-conservative Islamic groups Wednesday and separately announced they had foiled a suspected assassination attempt by Islamic extremists against a prominent far-right politician.

The groups banned included one whose Internet propaganda videos helped inspire the extremist who killed two American airmen at Frankfurt airport in 2011, the country's domestic intelligence chief said.

Police launched early morning raids on 21 apartments and one meeting room belonging to DawaFFM, Islamic Audios and al-Nussrah — all of which adhere to the hard-core conservative Salafi interpretation of Islam.

The groups were largely involved in recruitment, fundraising and propaganda, including videos and other postings urging people to fight against those who did not believe in their version of Islam, said Hans-Georg Maassen, the head of Germany's domestic intelligence service, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution.

"These organizations are oriented against the basic right to freedom of religion — against Christians and other faiths including Shiites," Maassen said.

For example, he said, in one DawaFFM YouTube posting, an Arabic speaker told Shiite Muslims: "If the Prophet Muhammad heard your words he'd hack off your hands and feet and banish

you from the earth."

It was also DawaFFM YouTube videos and Facebook postings that helped radicalize Arid Uka — the lone-wolf attacker who killed two U.S. airmen and injured two others at the Frankfurt Airport in 2011, Maassen said.

Uka was convicted of murder last year and sen-

"The men are considered part of the Salafi scene," police said.

The Salafi movement in Germany has been growing quickly, attracting both Muslims and converts, primarily men between ages 20 and 30. In 2011 there were some 3,800 people Salafis known to authorities and there are now some

ist who is now based in Pakistan's border area with Afghanistan called on Salafis in Germany to kill members of pro-NRW as well as employees of Der Spiegel magazine, which printed photos of the demonstrators holding signs showing caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

"We have determined that



German Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich briefs the media in Berlin, Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

tenced to life in prison.

In an operation unrelated to the ban on the groups, police arrested four men overnight on suspicion of planning to murder the leader of a far-right fringe party known as pro-NRW.

Two of them men were arrested in a vehicle near the home of Markus Beisicht in the western city of Leverkusen, police said in a statement. Two other men were arrested when police searched private properties in Essen and Bonn, where a firearm and "material suitable for the manufacture of explosives" were also found.

4,500.

Some 70 percent are Germans and 30 percent are non-Germans, coming from a variety of nations including Turkey, Morocco and Bosnia, according to a security official who was only allowed to discuss the figures on condition of anonymity. About a quarter are Muslim converts.

They have been under close observation since 2010, but that was stepped up further last year after they clashed with police in Bonn last year at a pro-NRW demonstration.

Following the incident, a known German-born terror-

in the past year the Salafis have begun acting not only aggressively and militantly in their prayer rooms or on the Internet but also violently on the streets," Maassen said.

Already last summer, Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich banned the Salafi organization Millatu Ibrahim, of which al-Nussrah was a splinter group, and opened the investigation of DawaFFM.

He said Wednesday's move to extend the ban should be seen as a "clear sign against those who practice exclusion, violence and intolerance." □

Damascus:

Mortar bombing kills 3, injures 50

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Mortar shells struck a residential area in central Syria Wednesday, killing three people and wounding more than 50, including a number of women and children, state-run news agency said.

The latest mortar attacks came as Syrian government troops fought fierce battles with rebels for control of key neighborhoods in the north-east of the capital, residents and activists said.

SANA said "terrorists" targeted the al-Boukhtyar neighborhood of Damascus with mortars and that two of the mortar shells struck near an orphanage. The Syrian government refers to rebels fighting to topple President Bashar Assad as terrorists.

Rebels have stepped up mortar attacks on Damascus in recent weeks, striking deeper than ever into the heart of the city in a new tactic to try and loosen Assad's grip on his main stronghold.

The pro-government Al-Ekhabariya TV aired footage of the attacks, showing houses and cars on fire and firefighters working to extinguish the flames. People were shown weeping and cursing the rebels. Also, a European Union staff member was killed in a rocket attack on an opposition stronghold south of the capital, the EU said.

Opposition fighters have been trying to advance into Damascus for weeks, battering regime checkpoints and military bases in the heavily fortified capital. □



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Russia says arming Syria rebels would breach international law

C. VINOGRAD
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Russia's foreign minister warned Thursday that arming Syria's rebels would be a breach of international law, hitting back at recent suggestions for a European Union arms embargo to be lifted. Moscow has been the main ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, shielding him from the U.N. sanctions over the two-year conflict, which started as an uprising and became a full-blown civil war, claiming the lives of more than 70,000 people.

With the conflict deadlocked, Britain last month successfully pushed for changes to an arms embargo to allow EU member states to provide nonlethal aid — such as armored vehicles — to rebels. The U.S. also said it would for the first time provide non-lethal aid to the rebels.

Britain and France have signaled their support for lifting the embargo further to allow weapons into Syria, but Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov insisted Wednesday that dialogue is the only way forward and signaled his government would vehemently oppose any move to arm the Syrian opposition.

"International law does not permit the supply of arms to non-governmental actors," Lavrov told a joint news conference in London with British Foreign Secretary William Hague.

But Hague stressed that Britain wasn't ruling out any possibilities with regard to Syria, saying the situation in the country was "catastrophic" and could get worse.

"Anything we do will be legal and clearly stated to our country and to the

international community," Hague said.

His remarks come a day after Prime Minister David Cameron hinted the U.K. might withhold approval for an extension of the arms embargo when it is due to expire in May. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius earlier this week said the EU will soon have to consider allowing weapons to be funneled to the outgunned Syrian rebels.

But diplomats from some EU countries have said they believe more guns is the last thing Syria needs. The different viewpoints raise the prospect that some countries might go it alone when the current EU embargo expires in May.

Cameron alluded to that possibility on Tuesday in remarks to a parliamentary committee. When asked about his position on the embargo, Cameron said he hopes "we can persuade our European partners (and) if and when a further change becomes necessary, they will agree with us."

Still, officials cautioned that Cameron's words reflected a willingness to keep "all options on the table" — not a warning.

Getting changes to the arms embargo in February was a start, and time will tell what effect those changes have on the ground and if they help protect civilian lives, an official said of anonymity in keeping with government policy.

"We've been gradually hardening our stance," the official said. "The situation is clearly getting worse not better and the political diplomacy track — hard as we are working it — isn't having the pressure on Assad at the moment to engage with that." □



Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague, left, shakes hands with after signing an agreement to hold further talks with Foreign Minister of Russia Sergei Lavrov during a joint Britain - Russia, foreign and defence ministerial conference at Lancaster House in London Wednesday March 13, 2013.
(AP Photo/Stefan Rousseau)



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Myanmar: Outraged over Suu Kyi mine endorsement

YADANA HTUN
Associated Press

MONYWA, Myanmar (AP)

— Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with rare public scorn Wednesday as she tried to justify an official report endorsing continued operation of a copper mine in northwestern Myanmar opposed by many local residents. Suu Kyi traveled to Monywa township on Wednesday to talk with protesters about the report of a commission she led to investigate the Letpadaung mine's operations and a police crackdown on a protest there last November that left scores of people badly injured.

The report, made public Tuesday, said honoring the mining contract with a Chinese joint venture outweighed villagers' demands that mining operations be halted because of alleged social and environmental problems. It only mildly criticized police, despite the injuries caused to protesters, mostly Buddhist monks, by the use of incendiary smoke bombs.

More than 700 protesters shouted denunciations of the report as Suu Kyi's motorcade passed between visits to four local villages. Raising their fists in the air, protesters yelled, "We don't want the commission" and "To stop the Letpadaung copper project is our duty," shouting louder as Suu Kyi's car came

closer. Sandar, a protester from Alaltaw village, said the report neglected the troubles the mine caused local residents. "We feel that Mother Suu doesn't have sympathy for us. We are fighting for the truth," she said, calling Suu Kyi by a term used by her supporters.

"We are not clear whether she made this decision because she is afraid of the military company or because she doesn't love

spearheaded the democratic opposition to the repressive former military government. A nominally civilian elected government took power in 2011, and Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party contested by-elections last year, giving her a seat in parliament.

As her party has agreed to play by parliamentary rules — in effect endorsing the army-backed government's reform efforts



Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, center, is greeted by villagers as she visits Wethmay village, an area near the Letpadaung copper mine, in Monywa township, central Myanmar, Wednesday, March 13, 2013.

(AP Photo/Khin Maung Win)

us. We want her to know that we are not protesting out of idleness," she said. Myanmar Economic Holding Ltd., a military-controlled holding company, is the local joint venture party in the mine.

Suu Kyi's endorsement of the commission's findings could erode some of the deep and wide support she has enjoyed for more than two decades as she

— there is an opening for more hard-core anti-military activists to win over a share of disaffected voters who prefer a quicker pace of change than allowed under the army-dictated constitution. The next general election is in 2015.

Protesters say the mine, a joint venture with China's Wan Bao mining company, causes environmental, social and health problems and should be shut down. The report said the operation should not be halted, but acknowledged that the mine lacked strong environmental protection measures and would not create more jobs for local people. It said scrapping the mine could create tension with China and could discourage badly needed foreign investment.

Those seeking to stop the project contend that the \$997 million joint venture deal, signed in May 2010, did not undergo parliamentary scrutiny because it was concluded under the previous military regime. □

Shark fatally attacks man off south Jamaican coast

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A large shark fatally attacked a spear fisherman on Tuesday as he dove in waters miles off the coast of southern Jamaica, according to authorities and colleagues of the dead man.

Police identified the victim as 68-year-old George Facey of the western town of Savanna-la-Mar. They said he was among a group of Jamaican fishermen who left the Old Harbour Bay Fishing Beach early in the day and encountered sharks while diving off a remote cay located some three miles off the south coast. Compton Campbell, a local fisherman who was close friends with Facey, said he was told by colleagues that the veteran spear fisherman got separated from the group and was attacked

by a possibly 16-foot-long (4.8-meter-long) shark, likely a tiger shark.

"It's awful and a big shock. That shark shredded him up. I knew him very well and I can tell you that he was a very good man, a good Christian," Campbell said during a phone interview. Police said that Facey was bitten several times. As the big shark circled, his companions managed to retrieve his bleeding body from the water and returned to shore, according to fishermen. Anthony Daley, a fisherman who was on the Tuesday fishing trip, told The Jamaica Gleaner newspaper that he saw the shark that killed Facey and it was the largest he had ever witnessed in a decade of fishing.

"Me fish everywhere in Jamaica and even as far away as Honduras and this is the biggest shark me ever see. □

Puerto Rican police seeking higher wages, overtime pay

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Hundreds of police officers gathered Wednesday in front of Puerto Rico's seaside Capitol building to protest proposed cuts in retirement benefits and to demand higher wages and overtime pay.

The officers also protested a recent announcement by Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla that public employees will have to take time off rather than be paid for accrued sick leave. Garcia has since said that if money is available, police officers are among those who would be paid.

Last month, Garcia said that benefits need to be reduced and contributions increased to ensure the island's public pension system does not collapse.

The protest was organized a day after Garcia announced a \$100 monthly salary increase for police officers, as well as free tuition at the island's largest public university for the children of slain police offi-

cers. He also said overtime pay would not be taxed.

The measures are expected to go into effect in July, but police unions say they do not believe the changes will occur.

The protest comes as Garcia seeks to retain Hector Pesquera as the island's police chief.

Pesquera was assistant director of Miami's Port Authority before taking the Puerto Rico police chief job in April 2012 and has previously said he would eventually return to that post.

There has been no official announcement about Pesquera leaving his current job, but Garcia said this week he is talking to officials in Florida's Miami-Dade County about the possibility of Pesquera remaining in Puerto Rico.

Pesquera, who has not commented on the issue, currently oversees the second-largest force in the U.S. with more than 17,000 officers. □

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Loyal group of visitors to Aruba honored at the Divi Phoenix Resort!

PALM BEACH - Recently Jonathan Boekhoudt from the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of presenting a group of loyal Aruba visitors at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort with their certificates of distinction from the Government of Aruba for their consecutive years returning to Aruba for their vacations!

Present at this ceremony were: the Cunninghams, the Clarkes, the Minnies,

the Fairbanks, the Reales and Camille Strano. All of these loyal visitors were presented with beautiful certificates and can officially call Aruba their "home away from home". Featured in the photo are the honorees, together with Avril, activities coordinator at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, and Jonathan Boekhoudt from the Aruba Tourism Authority. Congratulations to all of the honorees! □



ATA honors special guests at Paradise Beach Villas

EAGLE BEACH - Recently Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of very loyal and friendly Goodwill Ambassadors.

The honorees are Albert and Suzanne Lapane, residents of Windsor, Connecticut, and Raymond and Linda Collard, residents of Leamington, Ontario,

as Goodwill Ambassadors to Aruba. The honorees are members of Paradise Beach Villas and have been enjoying the island every year. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-20 years consecutive.

The main reasons why they keep coming back to Aruba are the friendly people, the beaches, the beautiful weather, and the local food. The certificate was presented by Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority, and Milca Erasmus, Human Resources Manager at Paradise Beach Villas. □



Louis Vuitton publishes a new collection of travel books

ORANJESTAD - Louis Vuitton Aruba, located at Renaissance Mall, is proud to announce the Maison's latest addition to its collection of fine publications. After the famous City Guides, Louis Vuitton publishes in May 2013 a new collection of books under the title: "Louis Vuitton Travel Book". A new and original approach to travel books, that can be described by being somewhere between the travel journal and the sketch book.

This collection is launched with four titles: Easter Island by Daniel Arsham, London by Natsko Seki, Paris by Chéri Samba and New York by Jean-Philippe Delhomme.

The Louis Vuitton "Travel Book" collection is an invitation to real and virtual journeys, enriched by intellectual stimulation and poignant moments. In its pages, the illustrations of renowned artists and promising young talents tell the stories of the cities and countries they have visited, depicting each place's varied architecture and special light, and recording



the passing days and the lives of its people.

As heirs of the Louis Vuitton "Carnets de Voyage" collection, which for nearly twenty years captured the urban adventures of a few illustrators and watercolorists, the "Travel Books" offer a new, contemporary vision of travel, exploring both remote wildernesses and cities that never sleep. This fresh approach dares to examine different cultures through the eyes of artists who are unfamiliar with them.

The Congolese artist Chéri Samba shows us Paris; the American Daniel Arsham, Easter Island; the Frenchman Jean-Philippe Delhomme, New York; and the young Japanese illustrator Natsko Seki, London.

Each artist confronts an unfamiliar place with a viewpoint sharpened by the surprise of the unknown or stimulated by the pleasure of rediscovery. This vision of a place as a blank, unlined page inspires incisive commentaries that may be narrative, affectionate, satirical or picturesque.

Going beyond the pictorial vocation of these travel journals, the collection highlights the rich aesthetic horizons of today's art.

The creative worlds on

show are highly diverse: during their travels, these artists from various corners of the world were free to choose their mode of expression and communicated their views of other places through drawing, painting, collage, contemporary art, illustration, cartoons or manga. Some of the original works born of these journeys, whether figurative or more allusive, have been acquired by Louis Vuitton and will join the collection of contemporary art being put together by the house, enriching it with the diversity of viewpoints represented. Each year, new destinations and new titles will be added to this collection. After Easter Island, London, New York and Paris, you will discover Venice through the drawings of manga artist Jiro Taniguchi, as well as Vietnam how it was experienced by Italian comic books author Lorenzo Mattotti.

For each new title, a numbered and signed limited edition will be available in selected Louis Vuitton stores.

After the books are launched in May, interviews with the artists will be available for viewing on www.louisvuitton.com.

**Beauty
On The
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Lucy celebrates her birthday in style at Amazonia



PALM BEACH – Local resident Vera Seifer, hosted a cozy birthday party for Lucy Cabañas, inviting Lucy's family members to celebrate the special occasion over delicious dinner at Amazonia Churrascaria. Dinner guests enjoyed the fresh seasonal salad bar and the parade of perfectly

grilled meats, as presented by the restaurant's roaming gauchos. The restaurant recently announced that Executive Chef Victor added a few new surprises to the salad bar, which already features over 50 varied and irresistible choices, news worthy of a press release on its own! □



BONUS



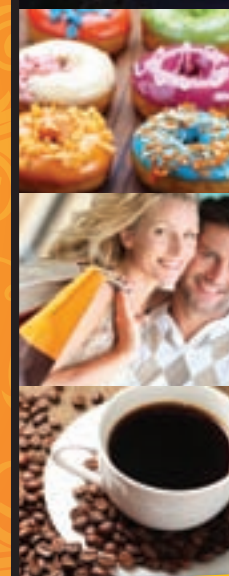
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CASINO AND SHOPS

Team Aruba has great first outing of the season!

ORANJESTAD/ROCKINGHAM, NC - For a team that is familiar with struggle, Trevor Eman and Team Aruba were delighted to start the 2013 season off with a very respectable semi-final finish. "It was certainly great to start the season making it to the semi-finals with this Aruba.com/Alltel Wireless Team," told Eman. "For the past two years the seasons never started the way we needed them to. Hopefully we keep the momentum going and win some races this year."

"Our weekend started with a successful car display for Alltel Wireless in Rockingham on Wednesday. The great folks from Alltel Wireless also joined us on Saturday and Sunday at the track, setting up their customer service table to be able to attend to all the race fans and Alltel Wireless customers. We love having the Alltel team join us for these events."



Between weather conditions and traveling the distances between Aruba and the team's shop in South Carolina, there was no time for off season testing until the days leading up to the ADRL Draggpalooza IX. The team was still working out the right combination

during qualifying, but managed a 4.103 which put them in the number 10 spot. During eliminations, Eman was definitely on his driving game. Although taking on the higher qualified Richard Penland in round one, Eman's .008 light and 4.05 elapsed time was no match

for Penland's .083 and 4.31. In round two, the Aruba.com laid down another 4.05, but it was Eman's .013 that put him ahead of Pete Berner's 4.04 at the finish line for a hole shot win. For the semi finals Eman was up against number one qualifier, John Deflorian. Know-

ing that they would have to pull out all the stops to win this round, Eman went for his best light and came up .001 red. Still, the Aruba.com Mustang ran another great number, 4.06. Deflorian proved to be tough to beat with a .005 light and 4.05 elapsed time.

"We made some changes for this race and we certainly saw the results of that," continued Eman. "We spent two days testing prior to the race and that didn't go quite the way we wanted, but we got things turned around just in time to perform well in eliminations. The car and motor performed flawlessly during eliminations. We had a tough draw in the semi finals in the number one qualifier, but we still ran a very competitive race. Our team can be very proud of what we've accomplished here. Also, congratulations to John Deflorian on winning the event!□"

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Alex Morgan, of the US celebrates on the back of Sydney Leroux after scoring the opening goal against Germany during their Algarve Cup women's soccer final match Wednesday, March 13 2013, at the Algarve stadium outside Faro, southern Portugal.

Associated Press

U.S. women beat Germany 2-0 for title

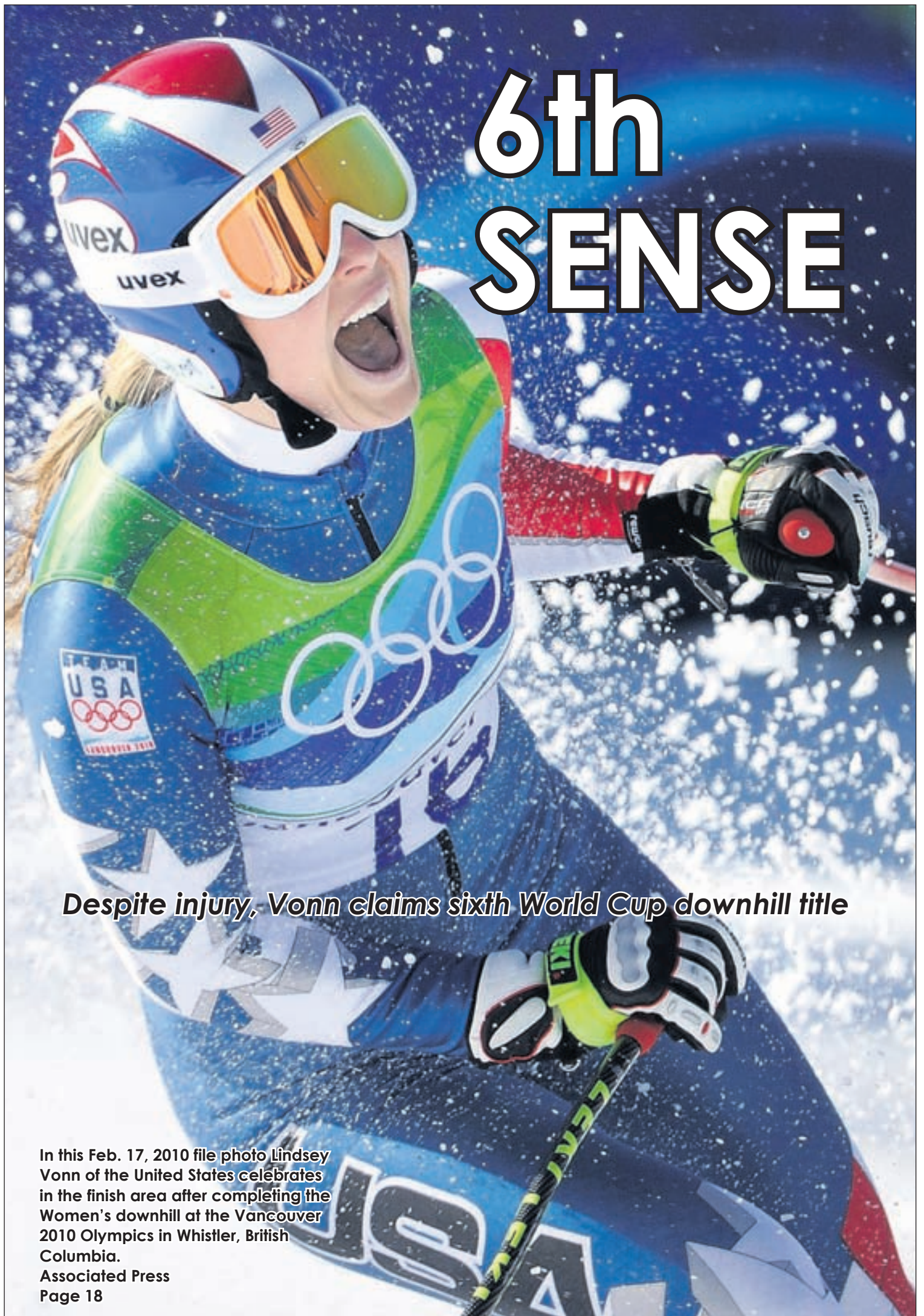
The Associated Press Alex Morgan scored twice in the first half as the U.S. defeated Germany 2-0 Wednesday night in the final of the Algarve Cup at Faro, Portugal. The Americans won the tournament for the ninth time in 18 appearances.

"It's great to continue the winning tradition that the U.S. team has," said Tom Sermanni, who took over this year after Pia Sundhage left to coach her native Sweden. "At least I haven't been a jinx in the short term."

The Americans have won the last three Olympic gold medals, including two under Sundhage, but have not won the Women's World Cup since 1999.

"It was such a good foundation for us. Now we just need to work off that," defender Ali Krieger said.

Continued on page 20



Despite injury, Vonn claims sixth World Cup downhill title

In this Feb. 17, 2010 file photo Lindsey Vonn of the United States celebrates in the finish area after completing the Women's downhill at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Whistler, British Columbia.

Associated Press
Page 18

Absent Vonn retains World Cup downhill title

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland

(AP) — The weather was on Lindsey Vonn's side this time when it came down to deciding a World Cup title.

The injured Vonn won a record sixth straight World Cup downhill title without having to show up on the mountain Wednesday, and despite having been unable to race for more than a month.

Fog canceled the season's last race in the discipline, allowing Vonn to retain her title — just one point ahead of overall champion Tina Maze of Slovenia. And that's despite Vonn missing much of the season, first because of a stomach illness and then a season-ending knee injury five weeks ago.

"Omg I won the World Cup Downhill title!!!! 6 in a row with a bum knee!" Vonn wrote on her Facebook page.

It was just the opposite for Vonn two years ago, when she was denied a chance at a fourth straight overall title by similar weather conditions in Lenzerheide. Then, the season-ending giant slalom was canceled and Vonn lost by three points to her good friend



In this Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013 file photo, Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, celebrates at the finish area after winning an Alpine Ski World Cup women's downhill, in Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy.

Associated Press

Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany.

"Everything in life comes back around. (hashtag)believe (hashtag)karma (hashtag)onelegvictorydance," wrote Vonn, whose title streak is a downhill record in 47 seasons of men's and women's World Cup racing.

Maze was trying to become the first woman to win five crystal globes in a season — the overall and four discipline titles — but conceded defeat in a Twitter post to Vonn.

"I guess the DH globe be-

longs to someone else, Congratulations Lindsey! What goes around comes around!" wrote Maze, who has dominated much of the season and broke the record for overall points.

Hoefl-Riesch, who also had a slim chance of winning the downhill title, quickly sent Vonn a message on her Twitter account.

"Congrats to (at)lindseyvonn for the dh globe! Now you know how I felt 2 years ago ;-)," Hoefl-Riesch wrote.

Fog hung on the lower slopes all day and earlier

forced the International Ski Federation to cancel the men's downhill. The women's race was canceled at 2:30 p.m., three hours after its scheduled start.

On Thursday, Maze will be favored to take Vonn's super-G title. She holds a 55-point lead over Julia Mancuso with 100 points awarded to the race winner.

Vonn's lone trophy from arguably her most difficult season is a World Cup record 17th crystal globe, overtaking Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell.

The 28-year-old American has won four overall titles and 13 in individual disciplines.

Vonn raced in only five of the seven downhills, winning twice at Lake Louise, Alberta, after recovering from a stomach illness.

"Coming back from that and then going to Lake Louise and pulling off those wins was very, very impressive," Alex Hoedlmoser, U.S. women's team head coach, said. "It's really cool to see actually that she's going to get the reward with the globe."

Vonn came home from Europe for a midseason break before getting a third victory at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, in January.

After her Feb. 5 crash in the world championships super-G race in Schladming, Austria, Vonn was stuck on 340 downhill points and left the door open to Maze.

The 29-year-old Slovene then finished fourth in Meribel, France, and won her second career World Cup downhill in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, to close within a point.

Vonn got a huge assist from unheralded Spanish racer Carolina Ruiz Castillo, whose surprise victory in Meribel with a late starting number pushed Maze down one place and cost her 10 World Cup points.

Vonn has been rehabilitating her injured right knee in the United States. She tore her anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments and broke a bone in her lower leg when her right ski stuck in softer snow on landing a jump.

That medal race was also delayed by fog and eventually started at the unusually late time of 2:30 p.m. Her injury stalled the pursuit of Moser-Proell's record of 62 career World Cup race wins.

Vonn has reached 59 and, injury-free, could reasonably have expected to be within reach of the all-time mark this week. □

U.S. beats Puerto Rico 7-1



United States' David Wright hits a three-run double during the eighth inning against Puerto Rico on World Baseball Classic game Tuesday, March 12, 2013, in Miami. Associated Press

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Gio Gonzalez pitched five scoreless innings as the United States beat Puerto Rico 7-1 in the World Baseball Classic on Tuesday.

David Wright drove in five runs, the last three with a bases-loaded double in the eighth. That prompted chants of "U-S-A! U-S-A!" from the crowd of 32,872.

"Obviously the adrenalin gets pumping for this tournament," Wright said. "You wear that uniform, you want to go out there and represent your country. Hitting in this lineup is ridiculous.

You have some of the best

hitters in the game, and it creates some matchup problems."

The United States fell behind in all three games in the opening round, but led from the first inning against Puerto Rico.

The Americans will play Thursday night against the Dominican Republic, which remained unbeaten in the WBC by rallying past Italy 5-4 on Tuesday.

"It's a marquee matchup," U.S. manager Joe Torre said. "They haven't lost. They've got some guys having some fun.

They have a lot of confidence. But I feel good about my team."

Puerto Rico plays Italy in an

elimination game Wednesday.

"If you go inside our clubhouse, everybody is up," manager Edwin Rodriguez said. "We lost today.

Turn the page. We concentrate on Wednesday." Gonzalez, who grew up in nearby Hialeah, struck out five for the hometown team and departed with a 3-0 lead. He said U.S. pitching coach Greg Maddux helped him keep from getting distracted by the importance of the game and the big crowd.

"He said to think about fishing or something and take your mind off it," Gonzalez said. "Tune it out and think of something real simple. □

Reggie Bush to Lions on Day 2 of free agency

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

Day 2 of the NFL's free agency frenzy began with another bunch of signings. Even Ray Lewis got a new deal — with ESPN.

The biggest move Wednesday was made by Detroit, which agreed with Reggie Bush on a four-year deal to fill a huge hole at running back. The Lions haven't been able to count on 2010 first-round draft pick Jahvid Best, whose career is in doubt because of concussion issues.

Bush adds to a strong offense led by record-setting All-Pro receiver Calvin Johnson. The second overall pick in 2006 by New Orleans, Bush rushed for 986 yards for Miami last season after gaining 1,086 yards in 2011, his first year with the Dolphins.

"It's a running back's dream," Bush said. "One of the reasons I wanted to come here is to be able to bring a balanced attack." One All-Pro on the move was safety Dashon Goldson, who left San Francisco for Tampa Bay — and a five-year contract worth \$41.25 million.

Goldson receives \$8.25 million per year and \$22 mil-



Reggie Bush speaks at a news conference after agreeing to a four-year deal with the Detroit Lions NFL football team, Wednesday, March 13, 2013 in Detroit.

lion in guaranteed money. He spent the past two seasons on one-year contracts with the 49ers, including last year with the franchise tag for \$6.2 million.

Kansas City remained busy by adding cornerback Dunta Robinson, late of the Falcons, to the three free agents it signed the previous day when the marketplace opened.

The Chiefs, who have the No. 1 pick in next month's draft after a 2-14 season, agreed to deals with tight end Anthony Fasano, defensive tackle Mike DeVito,

and quarterback Chase Daniel on Tuesday, when they also finalized the trade with San Francisco for starting QB Alex Smith.

After hiring Andy Reid as coach and John Dorsey as general manager, the Chiefs signed wide receiver Dwayne Bowe and punter Dustin Colquitt to long-term deals and franchised left tackle Branden Albert.

Cleveland, another NFL also-ran, was just as active, agreeing to terms with linebacker Quentin Groves and tackle Desmond Bry-

ant to further bolster a defense that added Ravens linebacker Paul Kruger hours after free agency began.

"With the additions of Paul and Desmond, we believe that we have significantly improved our defense overall, particularly our front seven," Browns CEO Joe Banner said.

Kruger is one of many Super Bowl winners to leave the Ravens, including hard-hitting safety Bernard Pollard, who was released Wednesday. The biggest loss for Baltimore was an

Associated Press

expected departure: Lewis announced in early January that he was ending his 17-year career.

Then he led the Ravens to the championship.

On Wednesday, he joined ESPN as a studio analyst — an intense one, no doubt.

"I'm ready to bring the same level of passion to this next phase of my life as I brought to the field during my years as a player," Lewis said.

Baltimore signed defensive lineman Chris Canty, offensive lineman Ramon Harewood and running back Damien Berry.

Also Wednesday:

—Chicago released tight end Kellen Davis after signing Martellus Bennett away from the Giants on Tuesday to replace him.

—The Giants signed 11-year veteran place kicker Josh Brown, who joins former Cowboys kicker David Buehler on the roster and apparently indicating free agent Lawrence Tynes won't be back.

Tynes has made winning field goals in to NFC championship games in overtime and the Giants went on to win the Super Bowl in those seasons. □

Djokovic, Sharapova win at Indian Wells

HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

INDIAN WELLS, California

(AP) — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic defeated Grigor Dimitrov 7-6 (4), 6-1 to reach the fourth round at the BNP Paribas Open on Tuesday with his 20th consecutive victory.

Defending women's champion Victoria Azarenka extended her own streak despite a nagging ankle problem, defeating Ursula Radwanska 6-3, 6-1 for her 17th straight win.

No. 3 Andy Murray beat Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan 6-3, 6-2 in their first meeting in five years.

No. 8 Caroline Wozniacki defeated No. 10 Nadia Petrova 7-6 (3), 6-3 to set up a quarterfinal against

Azarenka that matches former top-ranked players against each other.

Djokovic trailed 5-3 in the first set when the 21-year-old Bulgarian committed six double-faults, including four in one game, to help the Serb force the tiebreaker. Djokovic won it on a backhand error by the youngest player remaining in the draw.

Djokovic moves on to play Sam Querrey, a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (7), 7-5 winner over Marinko Matosevic.

Djokovic hasn't lost since Oct. 31, when Querrey beat him at the Paris Masters. Querrey is poised to take over as the top-ranked American in the men's game — albeit not in the top 10 — from Mardy

Fish, who lost 7-6 (4), 7-6 (0) to No. 8 seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

"I really felt the match could have been a completely different scoreline pretty easily," Fish said. "That's why you're a little disappointed."

Azarenka was clearly bothered by her ankle, wincing after shots. She also has a stuffy nose.

"I could overcome those things and manage to take these chances in the important moments and really go for my shots, to make that happen, not to wait for her mistake," she said. "Because at some point I was waiting for her mistake, and I can't do that. She wasn't missing because she's a very, very

consistent player, so I decided to just take everything in my own hands and see where it takes me."

No. 2 Maria Sharapova joined Azarenka in the quarterfinals with a 7-5, 6-0 win over Lara Arruabarrena-Vecino of Spain, someone she had never played before.

Sharapova went down a break early in the first before rallying on a cloudless day in the desert.

"Just didn't get a good rhythm on her game from the beginning," she said. "Maybe I was going for the lines a little bit more than I had to, especially in the first few games when you don't know too much about your opponent or haven't played her."

"Towards the end of the first and beginning of the second set I really stepped it up, was being more aggressive, and really gave myself a better margin than I did throughout the first set."

Tsonga has beaten Fish all four times they have played. The Frenchman next plays 17th-seeded Milos Raonic, who outlasted Marin Cilic 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Fish lost in the third round for the second straight year. He is playing his first tournament since last September after being sidelined with a heart condition, although he hasn't disclosed the exact nature of the problems.

"I certainly missed playing tennis for a living. □

Foligno scores 2 in Sabres' 3-1 win over Rangers

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, New York (AP)

— Marcus Foligno scored twice and backup goalie Jhonas Enroth made 18 of his 32 saves in the third period of the Buffalo Sabres' 3-1 win over the New York Rangers on Tuesday night. Enroth, who started because Ryan Miller was sidelined because of a sinus infection, earned his first victory since a 5-1 win over Washington on Nov. 26, 2011. He was 0-9-3 in 16 appearances since then.

Foligno's first goal made it 1-1 at 5:35 of the second period. His second gave the Sabres a 3-1 lead with 8:12 left in the game.

Thomas Vanek also scored for Buffalo (10-14-3), which returned home after going 0-2-2 on a season-high, four-game road trip.

Derek Stepan scored a short-handed goal for the Rangers (13-10-2), who lost for just the second time in seven games. Henrik Lundqvist made 19 saves.

PENGUINS 3, BRUINS 2 PITTSBURGH (AP) — Brandon Sutter scored twice in the final seven minutes to cap a furious rally, and Pittsburgh slipped past Boston.



Tampa Bay Lightning's Ryan Malone (12) celebrates after Steven Stamkos scored a goal against Florida Panthers goalie Jacob Markstrom (35), of Sweden, during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, March 12, 2013, in Sunrise, Fla. The Lightning won 3-2.

Associated Press

Chris Kunitz started Pittsburgh's third-period surge with his 18th goal of the season, and Sutter beat Boston's Anton Khudobin twice in less than four minutes, including the game-winner with 2:03 remaining. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 14 shots for the Penguins, who broke loose late against the NHL's best

defensive team and won their sixth straight. NHL scoring leader Sidney Crosby had an eight-game point streak snapped. Zdeno Chara and Tyler Seguin scored first-period goals for the Bruins. Khudobin made 31 saves, and the Bruins kept Pittsburgh's high-powered offense in check until the final min-

utes of a matchup between two of the Eastern Conference's best teams. **HURRICANES 4, CAPITALS 0 WASHINGTON (AP)** — Riley Nash scored twice, Joe Corvo put one in off the goaltender's mask, and Justin Peters got his second career shutout as surging Carolina beat slumping Washington in the first game of a key home-and-home set.

Patrick Dwyer added an empty-net goal, and Peters made 26 saves for the Hurricanes, who have won six of seven and have a 10-point lead over the host Capitals.

Washington lost its third straight — all by at least a three-goal margin.

Peters, who is sharing duties with Dan Ellis while Cam Ward is out with a knee injury, was on the top of his game. He made a reflex pad save on Marcus Johansson in the second period and later stymied Troy Brouwer on a short-handed breakaway.

CANUCKS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1, SO

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Mason Raymond scored the only goal in the shoot-

out, and seldom-used Roberto Luongo stopped 26 shots through overtime to lead Vancouver past Columbus. Luongo, playing in his second game in 16 days, stopped all three Blue Jackets in the shootout. Jason Garrison had the lone goal before overtime for the Canucks, who had lost four straight (0-2-2).

Mark Letestu scored Columbus' only regulation goal, but the Blue Jackets matched a franchise record by earning a point in an eighth consecutive game (5-0-3). Their five-game winning streak ended, one short of tying the franchise mark.

LIGHTNING 3, PANTHERS 2 SUNRISE, Florida (AP) — Steven Stamkos snapped a third-period tie with his NHL-leading 20th goal, and Tampa Bay held on to beat Florida despite recording a season-low 13 shots.

Vincent Lecavalier and Martin St. Louis also scored for the Lightning, and Anders Lindback made 37 saves. St. Louis added had two assists for the Lightning, whose previous low for shots this season was 19. □



Los Angeles Lakers' Dwight Howard (12) smiles as walks on the court after a time out late in the fourth quarter during an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic, Tuesday, March 12, 2013, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)

— Dwight Howard scored a season-high 39 points, had 16 rebounds and was sent to the free throw line 39 times by his former team as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Orlando Magic,

106-97 on Tuesday night. The victory came in Howard's first return to Orlando since his drama-filled off-season trade to the Lakers. He endured a chorus of boos throughout, and tied his own NBA record for free throw attempts.

Howard scores 39, leads Lakers past Magic 106-97

The majority of them came as the Magic tried to employ an intentional foul strategy. It backfired, though, as the All-Star center hit on 16 of 20 attempts in the second half.

The victory was the Lakers' fourth straight.

Jameer Nelson led Orlando with 21 points.

HEAT 98, HAWKS 81

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade scored 23 points and Miami extended its winning streak to 19 games, leading wire-to-wire in beating Atlanta.

LeBron James scored 15 and Chris Bosh and Mario Chalmers added 14 apiece for the Heat, who matched the fifth-longest streak in NBA history. They

will try for their 20th straight win on Wednesday at Philadelphia, the start of a five-game trip.

Only three teams have won at least 20 consecutive games in the same season: the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers (33), the 2007-08 Houston Rockets (22) and the 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks (20). The Washington Capitals also won 20 straight, spanning the end of the 1947-48 season and the start of the 1948-49 campaign.

Josh Smith scored 15 for the Hawks.

MAVERICKS 115, BUCKS 108 MILWAUKEE (AP) — Vince Carter hit three key 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and scored 23 points off

the bench as Dallas won its fourth straight. Dirk Nowitzki added 19 points while O.J. Mayo had 14. Mavericks rookie and former Marquette star Jae Crowder, last year's Big East player of the year, was one off his career high with 14 points. Monta Ellis scored 32 points for the Bucks, giving him 20 or more in all six of Milwaukee's games this month. Mike Dunleavy added 18 points while J.J. Redick had 17. Larry Sanders had 13 points and 12 rebounds. The Mavericks, who are three games out of the eighth spot in the Western Conference playoff race, matched their longest winning streak of the season and have won five of six. □

53-year-old musher becomes oldest Iditarod champion

MARK THIESSEN
RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press

NOME, Alaska (AP) —

Mitch Seavey became the oldest winner of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race at 53 when he won a dueling sprint with Aliy Zirkle along the frozen, wind-whipped Bering Sea coast into Nome on Tuesday.

Seavey and 10 dogs crossed the finish line to cheering crowds at 10:39 p.m. local time, in temperatures just above zero (minus-18 C).

"This is for all of the gentlemen of a certain age," he said after completing the 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) race in 9 days, 7 hours and 39 minutes.

Zirkle, last year's runner-up, was 24 minutes behind her rival, who greeted her after a while.

"You did a good job," Seavey told Zirkle. "You're going to win this thing, probably more than once." At the finish, both mushers rushed to pet their dogs, with Seavey singling out his main leader, 6-year-old Tanner, posing for photos with the dog and another

leader, Taurus, wearing yellow garlands. Zirkle's dogs wagged their tails as she praised them.

"My dog team is my heart," she said.

The pair jostled for the lead, with Zirkle never more than a few miles (kilometers) behind in the final section. "I just now stopped looking over my shoulder," Seavey said after winning.

Also trailing by a dozen or so miles (kilometers) was four-time champion Jeff King, who was followed by a cluster of contenders, including Seavey's son, Dallas Seavey. The younger Seavey at age 25 last year became the youngest Iditarod winner ever, beating Zirkle to the finish line by one hour.

Mitch Seavey won the Iditarod in 2004. The previous oldest winner was King, who won his fourth title at age 50 in 2006.

Zirkle, 43, had hoped to be only the third woman to win the race and the first since Susan Butcher won her fourth Iditarod in 1990. Before this year's race, Zirkle noted the long time that had passed since a woman won.

"This is my 13th year, and

I've wanted to win every year," she said before the race, which began on March 2 with 66 teams at a ceremonial start in Anchorage.

The race changed leaders several times, including four-time champions Lance Mackey and Martin Buser, who later fell behind. En route to Nome, the race turned into an aggressively contested run among veterans along an often punishing trail.

Conditions on the Yukon River required dogs to go through deep snow and navigate glare ice. Above-freezing temperatures also led to overflow along the trail, a potentially dangerous situation where water has pushed up through the ice and refrozen, creating a weak top layer of ice that teams and mushers can break through.

For reaching Nome first, Seavey wins \$50,400 and a new 2013 Dodge Ram truck. The rest of the \$600,000 purse will be split among the next 29 mushers to cross the finish line under the famed burl arch on Front Street, a block from the sea. □

Continued on page 17

"Tom has done such a great job with us, and he has a lot of knowledge of the game and we need to let it all soak in."

Backup goalkeeper Nicole Barnhart protected the lead with some strong saves in the second half.

Morgan started the scoring in the 13th minute. Sydney Leroux sent a cross that Germany central defender Josephine Henning tried to clear with a header. But the ball fell to Morgan just inside the area and she scored with her left foot.

Morgan connected again 12 minutes later. A mix-up between goalkeeper Almuth Schult and the German defenders let Morgan steal possession and she rolled a shot into the empty net from the edge of the box. □



Christen Press, left, of the US, fights for the ball with Germany's Babet Peter during their Algarve Cup women's soccer final match Wednesday, March 13 2013, at the Algarve stadium outside Faro, southern Portugal.

Associated Press



Mitch Seavey holds one of his lead dogs, Taurus, as he poses for photographers at the finish line of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race in Nome, Alaska, Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

Associated Press

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Fri 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30 / 11:30
Sat 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30 / 11:30
Sun & Hol 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30

THE GREAT OZ POWERFUL

3D Version

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 5:10 / 8:00
Fri 5:10 / 8:00 / 10:50
Sat 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00 / 10:50
Sun & Hol 2:20 / 5:10 / 8:00

TAD THE LOST EXPLORER

3D Version

Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:05
Fri 5:00 / 7:05
Sat 2:55 / 5:00 / 7:05
Sun & Hol 2:55 / 5:00 / 7:05

A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35
Fri 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35 / 11:50
Sat 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35 / 11:50
Sun & Hol 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:35

IDENTITY THIEF

Mon - Thurs 9:10
Fri 9:10 / 11:40
Sat 9:10 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 9:10

THE CROODS 3D

STARTING THURSDAY MARCH 21

Hard to find good info on drug safety in pregnancy

L. NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Nearly every woman takes a medication at some point during pregnancy. Yet there's disturbingly little easy-to-understand information about which drugs pose a risk to her baby, and what to do about it. Need some pain relief? In the fine print is the warning that painkillers like Advil aren't for the third trimester. Left unsaid is whether to worry if you took them earlier.

An awful cold? Don't panic if you used decongestant pills, but doctors advise a nasal spray in early pregnancy.

And don't abandon antidepressants or epilepsy medicines without talking to your doctor first. Some brands are safer during pregnancy than others — and worsening depression or seizures aren't good for a mom-to-be or her baby. "To come off of those medications is often a dangerous thing for the pregnancy itself," warns Dr. Sandra Kweder of the Food and Drug Administration. "They need information on what to expect, how to make those trade-offs."

A new study shows how difficult that information is to come by.

Women often turn to the Internet with pregnancy questions. But researchers examined 25 pregnancy-related websites and found no two lists of purportedly safe drugs were identical. Twenty-two products called safe on one site were deemed risky on another.

Worse, specialists couldn't find evidence to back up safety claims for 40 percent of the drugs listed, said Cheryl Broussard of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who led the recent study.

"The reality is that for most of the medications, it's not that they're safe or not that's the concern. The concern is that we just don't know," she said.

Broussard experienced some of that confusion during her own two preg-

nancies — when different doctors handed over different lists of what was safe to use.

It's a growing dilemma. The CDC says medication use during the first trimester — especially vulnerable for birth defects because fetal organs are forming — has jumped 60 percent in the last three decades. Plus, women increasingly are postponing pregnancy until their 30s, even 40s, more time to develop a chronic health condition before they're expecting.

The CDC is beginning a Treating for Two program to explore how to get better information, and the FDA plans to revamp prescription drug labels with more details on what's known now. But people want an easy answer — use it or don't — and for many drugs, they won't get one anytime soon.

"Women agonize over it," said Dr. Christina Chambers of the University of California, San Diego. She

helps direct California's pregnancy risk information hotline that advises thousands of worried callers every year.

Some drugs pose particular birth-defect risks. For example, the FDA requires



Non-prescription drugs displayed at a pharmacy in New York. Nearly every woman takes a medication at some point during pregnancy. Yet there's disturbingly little easy-to-understand information about which drugs pose a risk to her baby, and what to do about it.

versions of the acne drug isotretinoin, first marketed as Accutane, to be sold under special tight controls. Similarly, last year FDA said women who want

to use a new weight-loss drug, Qsymia, need testing first to be sure they're not pregnant.

Other medications are considered safe choices. Obstetricians say pregnant women need a flu shot, for

example. A recent massive study in Denmark offered reassurance that taking the anti-nausea drug Zofran for morning sickness won't hurt the baby.

But many drug labels bear little if any details about pregnancy. Drugmakers shy from studying pregnant women, so it can take years for safety information to accumulate. Moreover, the CDC says 1 in 33 babies has some type of birth defect regardless of medication use. It can be hard to tell if a drug adds to that baseline risk.

Consider antidepressants, used by about 5 percent of pregnant women. Certain brands are suspected of a small risk of heart defects. Studies suggest a version called SSRIs may increase risk of a serious lung problem at birth — from 1 in 3,000 pregnancies to 3 in 3,000 pregnancies, Chambers said. Also, some babies go through withdrawal symptoms in the first days of life that can range from jitteriness to occasional seizures.

Women have to weigh those findings with the clear risks of stopping treatment, she said. □

Expert:

Don't take chances, use a water filter

Susan Salisbury

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. --

Water is basic to life, but finding clean, totally pure water isn't easy.

A new Environmental Working Group analysis of 2011 water quality tests by 201 large U.S. municipal water systems that serve more than 100 million people in 43 states has determined that all are polluted with unwanted toxic chemicals called trihalomethanes. These chemicals, an unintended side effect of chlorination, elevate the risks of bladder cancer, miscarriages and other serious ills. In other words, traces of the chemicals used to clean the water are left behind.

EWG's report, released in February, probably will not be popular with the nation's municipal water systems' officials, but will undoubtedly be welcomed by the water filter industry.

That's because EWG recommends consumers use some form of carbon filtration to reduce exposure to trihalomethanes and other water treatment contaminants. It has released its online water filter guide at ewg.org/report/ewgs-water-filter-buying-guide. You can research which type of system will remove water treatment contaminants. The guide lists 137 filter systems that have been certified by the California Department of Public Health and/or NSF, a reputable independent product evaluation company.

The guide links to Amazon, where the filters can be purchased. EWG spokesman Alex Formuzis said EWG, like other non-profits which provide such links, receive approximately 8 percent of the sales from the items. Formuzis said EWG would still provide the same information about the filters even if the Ama-

zon program did not exist. Pitcher and faucet-mounted systems are typically the most economical, EWG found, costing about \$100 a year. At the upper end in price are whole-house filtration systems, which can cost several thousand dollars. In between are various systems such as reverse osmosis systems that are mounted under the kitchen sink.

Whatever type of system you choose, if you don't change the filters according to the manufacturer's guidelines, it will become clogged and won't work. Bottled water can also contain chemicals, and buying it for a family of four can cost up to \$1,800 a year.

Despite that finding that all the water systems contained the chemicals, only one of the systems studied by EWG -- Davenport, Iowa -- exceeded the Environmental Protection

Agency's upper legal limit of 80 parts per billion of trihalomethanes in drinking water.

California public health officials reviewed the research around trihalomethane contamination in 2010 and determined that to reduce the risk of bladder cancer to no more than 1 in a million, the drinking water standard would need to be set at 0.8 parts per billion, which is 100 times lower than the current legal limit set by EPA. "Many people are likely exposed to far higher concentrations of trihalomethanes than anyone really knows," said Renee Sharp, a senior scientist at EWG and co-author of the analysis. "For most water systems, trihalomethane contamination fluctuates from month to month, sometimes rising well beyond the legal limit set by the federal Environmental Protection Agency." □

Report: More youth use smartphones as route to Web

MARTHA IRVINE
AP National Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A new report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project finds that 78 percent of young people, ages 12 to 17, now have cellphones. Nearly half of those are smartphones, a share that's increasing steadily — and that's having a big effect on how, and where, many young people are accessing the Web.

The survey, released Wednesday, finds that one in four young people say they are "cell-mostly" Internet users, a percentage that increases to about half when the phone is a smartphone.

In comparison, just 15 percent of adults said they access the Internet mostly by cellphone.

"It's just part of life now," says Donald Conkey, a high school sophomore in Wilmette, Illinois, just north of Chicago, who is among the many teens who have smartphones. "Everyone's about the same now when it comes to their phones — they're on them a lot."

He and other teens say that if you add up all the time they spend using apps and searching for info, texting and downloading mu-

sic and videos, they're on their phones for at least a couple of hours each day — and that time is only increasing, they say.

"The occasional day where my phone isn't charged or I leave it behind, it feels almost as though I'm naked in public," says Michael Weller, a senior at New Trier High School, which Conkey also attends. "I really need to have that connection and that attachment to my phone all the time."

According to the survey, older teen girls, ages 14 to 17, were among the most likely to say their phones were the primary way they access the Web. And while young people in low-income households were still somewhat less likely to use the Internet, those who had phones were just as likely — and in some cases, more likely — to use their cellphones as the main way they access the Web. It means that, as this young generation of "mobile surfers" grows and comes of age, the way corporations do business and marketers advertise will only continue to evolve, as will the way mobile devices are monitored.

Already, many smartphones have restriction



Peter Conkey, 6, left, laughs as he tries to keep his brother Harry Conkey, 17, center, from taking his iPod Touch as their brother Harry Conkey, 15, watches on Monday, March 11, 2013, in Wilmette, Ill.

Associated Press

menus that allow parents to block certain phone functions, or mature content. Cellphone providers have services that allow parents to see a log of their children's texts. And there are a growing number of smartphone applications that at least claim to give parents some level of control on a phone's Web browser, though many tech experts agree that these applications can be hit-or-miss.

Despite the ability to monitor some phone activity, some tech and commu-

nication experts question whether surveillance, alone, is the best response to the trend.

Some parents take a hard line on limits. Others, not so much, says Mary Madden, a senior researcher at Pew who co-authored the report.

"It seems like there are two extremes. The parents who are really locking down and monitoring everything — or the ones who are throwing up their hands and saying, 'I'm so overwhelmed,'" Madden says.

She says past research also

has found that many parents hesitate to confiscate phones as punishment because they want their kids to stay in contact with them.

"Adults are still trying to work out the appropriate rules for themselves, let alone their children," Madden says. "It's a difficult time to be a parent."

And a seemingly difficult time for them to say "no" to a phone, even for kids in elementary school, where the high-tech bling has become a status symbol.

Sherry Budziak, a mom in Vernon Hills, Illinois, says her 6-year-old daughter has friends her age who are texting by using applications on the iPod Touch, a media player that has no phone but that has Internet access.

She draws the line there. But she did get her 11-year-old daughter an older model iPhone last fall, so she can stay in touch with her. Budziak, who works in the tech field and understands the ins and outs of the phone, set it so that the sixth-grader can text, make and receive phone calls and play games that her parents download for her.

"So we're on the conservative side, by far," she says. □

Researchers find German-made spyware across globe

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The discovery of a group of servers linked to an elusive espionage campaign is providing new details about a high-tech piece of spy software that some fear may be targeting dissidents living under oppressive regimes.

A Canadian research center said Wednesday that it had identified 25 different countries that host servers linked to FinFisher, a Trojan horse program which can dodge anti-virus protections to steal data, log keystrokes, eavesdrop on Skype calls, and turn microphones and webcams into live surveillance devices.

Citizen Lab, based at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs,

said that Canada, Mexico, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Serbia, and Vietnam were among the host countries newly identified in Wednesday's report. That alone doesn't necessarily mean those countries' governments are using FinFisher, a program distributed by British company Gamma International, but it is an indication of the spyware's reach.

Morgan Marquis-Boire, the report's lead author, said his goal was "to show the proliferation of this type of active intrusion and surveillance." In telephone interview, he said that the world of government surveillance was changing and urged journalists, aid workers, and activists to take note.

"It's not just phone tapping," he said. "It's install-

ing a backdoor on your computer to record your Skype conversations and go through your email."

Advocacy group Privacy International described the report as evidence that Gamma had sold FinFisher to repressive regimes, calling it a "potential breach of UK export laws."

Gamma did not comment on the report.

The company, based in the English town of Andover, has come under increasing scrutiny after a sales pitch for the spyware was recovered from an Egyptian state security building shortly after the toppling of dictator Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Reporting by Bloomberg News subsequently identified opposition activists from the Persian Gulf kingdom of Bahrain as tar-

gets of the company's surveillance software.

The discovery of FinFisher servers in countries run by authoritarian governments — such as Turkmenistan and Ethiopia — have raised further questions about the company's practices. On Tuesday, Paris-based journalists' rights group Reporters Without Borders named Gamma one of its five "corporate enemies of the Internet."

The report said evidence for the Ethiopian government's use of FinFisher was particularly strong, explaining that Citizen Lab had found an example of the spyware which spread through a booby-trapped email purporting to carry images of Ethiopian opposition figures. Once the Trojan was downloaded, it

would connect to a server being hosted by Ethiopia's national telecommunications provider, Ethio Telecom.

It's not clear who the Trojan's intended targets might have been, although online messages have provided key evidence in several recent terror cases that have resulted in the incarceration of media and opposition figures.

Journalist Reyot Alemu was arrested in 2011 after she was caught attempting to anonymously email articles to a U.S.-based opposition website, while opposition leader Andualem Arage is currently appealing the life sentence he received last year after authorities got hold of his Skype conversation with an alleged enemy of the Ethiopian state. □

First time in 16 years: Dow Jones extends gains for ninth day

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average notched its ninth gain in a row, giving the index its longest winning streak in more than sixteen years.

The index edged up 5.22 points, or 0.04 percent, to 14,455.28. The Dow has risen every day this month and is up 10.3 percent this year, having surpassed its previous all-time high of 14,164.53 March 5th.

Demand for stocks has been propelled this year by optimism that the housing market is recovering and that companies have started to hire. Strong company earnings and ongoing stimulus from the Federal Reserve are also helping make stocks more attractive. The Dow's last nine-day winning streak was logged in May 1996. In November of the same year, in the early days of the technology boom, it gained for 10 straight days. Stocks overcame an early loss Wednesday, having edged lower at the start of the trading day despite an unexpectedly strong increase in U.S. consumer spending last month.

Americans spent at the fastest pace in five months in February, boosting retail spending 1.1 percent compared with January, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. Economists had forecast a

rise of just 0.2 percent, according to data provider FactSet. The failure of the market to rally directly after the report suggests that the bar has now risen for investors as stocks have rallied. "As the market rises, so do expectations," said Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Wealth Management. "So, even if you get good numbers you

The Nasdaq composite rose 2.80 points, or 0.1 percent, to 3,245.12

Stocks of retail companies rose after the sales report. Kohl's rose \$1.49, or 3.15 percent, to \$48.82 and Best Buy gained 67 cents, or 3.3 percent, to \$20.96.

Brian Gendreau, a strategist at Cetera Financial Group, says that even if markets dip in coming

to stop any time soon."

The S&P 500 index has gained 9 percent in 2013 and is within less than a percentage point of its record close of 1,565.15 set in October 2007. Stocks in Europe were mixed. Most markets edged lower after industrial production in the countries using the euro unexpectedly fell by 0.4 percent in January. Economists had expected it to rise by 0.1 percent, according to FactSet.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note was unchanged from late Tuesday at 2.02 percent.

Among stocks making big moves;

— Spectrum Pharmaceuticals plunged \$4.64, or 37 percent, to \$7.79 after the pharmaceutical company said sales of its drug Fusilev could fall by more than half this year.

— Dole dropped \$1.06, or 9 percent, to \$10.67 after the company's fourth-quarter results fell short of analysts' expectations. The fruit company cited lower banana prices in North America.

— Express fell 60 cents, or 3.2 percent, to \$18.25 after the clothing retailer's earnings report disappointed investors. Michael Weiss, the company's CEO and chairman, told analysts on a conference call that customer traffic was "down noticeably" compared to last year. □



A television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the closing number for the Dow Jones industrial average, Wednesday, March 13, 2013. The Dow rose five points, or 0.04 percent, to close at 14,455 points Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

don't necessarily get the market to go up."

The solid increase in retail sales is encouraging for the economy because it shows that Americans kept spending despite a payroll tax increase that has lowered take-home pay this year for most workers. Consumer spending drives about 70 percent of the U.S. economy.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.04 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,554.52.

weeks, the trend of rising company earnings is likely to push stocks higher in the longer term. So far companies have reported 7.7 percent earnings growth for the fourth quarter, the third straight quarter of gains, according to S&P Capital IQ. "Earnings growth has been quite strong. Corporations have found a way to make money," said Gendreau. "New products, new markets, cost savings. I don't believe that is going

US companies lift restocking Jan/Dec at 1%

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. companies increased their restocking in January from December, an encouraging signal that they expect consumers will spend more this year and help the economy grow faster.

The Commerce Department says business stockpiles grew 1 percent in January, up from 0.3 percent growth in December. Total business sales fell 0.3 percent in January after a slight 0.1 percent rise in December.

Weak growth in restocking was a key reason the economy barely grew from October through December.

Since then, job growth has accelerated and wages have steadily risen. The combination could lead to greater consumer demand, prompting more business restocking and economic growth.

A separate report Wednesday showed that retail sales rose 1.1 percent in February, providing evidence that consumers are being helped by the stronger wage growth.

The economy grew only 0.1 percent rate in the fourth quarter. Still, sharp defense cuts and sluggish restocking, both volatile factors, were the main reason for the weak growth. □

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Philip Morris Int'l CEO Camilleri to step down



Philip Morris International Inc. said Wednesday that CEO Louis C. Camilleri is stepping down.

(Handout Photo)

M. FELBERBAUM
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — Philip Morris International Inc. said Wednesday that CEO Louis C. Camilleri will step down and be replaced by the man who led it before it became an independent company.

The seller of Marlboro and other cigarette brands overseas said its current chief operating officer, Andre Calantzopoulos, will become CEO immediately after the company's annual shareholder meeting May 8. He also was nominated for election to the board. Camilleri will remain in his current job of chairman, the company said. Philip Morris International, which has offices in Lausanne, Switzerland, and New York, is second in size only to state-controlled China National Tobacco Corp.

It was spun off in 2008 from Richmond, Virginia-based Altria Group Inc., owner of Philip Morris USA, which still sells Marlboro and other Philip Morris brands in the U.S.

In 2012, Philip Morris International's net income grew 2.4 percent to \$8.8 billion. Revenue excluding excise taxes increased about 1 percent to \$31.4 billion. Its shipments were up more than 1 percent to 927 billion cigarettes and its market share, excluding China and the U.S., grew to a record 28.8 percent.

Calantzopoulos, 55, has served as chief operating officer since the com-

pany spinoff from Altria. He joined the company in 1985 and served as its CEO of the international unit from 2002 until the spinoff. The 58-year-old Camilleri was CEO of Altria in 2002, when it first embarked on a restructuring that led to the spin-off of Kraft Foods Inc., then the separation of the two cigarette makers.

The often-unapologetic Camilleri gained international media attention in 2011 when he told a cancer nurse that while cigarettes are harmful and addictive, it is not that hard to quit.

The statement was in response to comments at its annual shareholder meeting, in which executives usually spend much of the time sparring with members of anti-tobacco and other corporate accountability groups.

The nurse, later identified as Elisabeth Gundersen from the University of California-San Francisco, cited statistics that tobacco use kills more than 400,000 Americans and 5 million people worldwide each year. She is a member of The Nightingales Nurses, an activist group that works to focus public attention on the tobacco industry.

Gundersen also said a patient had recently told her that of all the addictions he's beaten — crack, cocaine, meth — cigarettes have been the most difficult.

In response, Camilleri said: "We take our responsibility very seriously, and I don't think we get enough recognition for the efforts we make to ensure that there is effective worldwide regulation of a product that is harmful and that is addictive. Nevertheless, whilst it is addictive, it is not that hard to quit. ... There are more previous smokers in America today than current smokers."

Camilleri, a longtime smoker, was quoted in an April 2009 BusinessWeek article as saying he had quit only once, for three months when he had a cold. □

US retail sales up solid 1.1% in February

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans spent at the fastest pace in five months in February, boosting retail spending 1.1 percent compared with January. About half the jump reflected higher gas prices, but even excluding gas purchases,



Marty Grossman shops for a hat at Lodge's store on in Albany, N.Y. Americans spent at the fastest pace in five months in February, boosting retail spending 1.1% compared with January. (AP Photo/Mike Groll)

retail sales rose 0.6 percent. The report Wednesday from the Commerce Department showed that Americans kept spending last month despite higher Social Security taxes that took effect this year. The retail sales report is the government's first look each month at consumer spending, which drives about 70 percent of economic activity.

Core retail sales, which ex-

clude the volatile categories of gas, autos and building supply stores, rose 0.4 percent in February compared with January.

Economists were encouraged by the stronger-than-expected gain in retail sales. Some said the increase means the economy may be growing faster

sumption growth later in the year, too."

Auto sales rose 1.1 percent after a 0.4 percent January increase. The February gain was the biggest since December.

Sales at gas stations surged 5 percent, the biggest advance since a 6 percent rise in August.

Sales at general merchandise stores, a category that includes major department stores such as Macy's and big discount stores such as Wal-Mart and Target, rose 0.5 percent in February. But the department store category as a whole fell 1 percent.

The solid increase in retail sales showed that Americans kept spending despite a payroll tax increase that has lowered take-home pay this year for most workers. Someone earning \$50,000 has about \$1,000 less to spend in 2013.

A household with two high-paid workers has up to \$4,500 less.

Consumers may be able to absorb higher taxes if employers continue hiring and increasing wages.

The economy added 236,000 jobs in February, driving the unemployment rate down to 7.7 percent, its lowest level in more than four years. The gains signaled that companies are confident enough in the economy to intensify hiring even in the face of tax increases and government spending cuts. □

CEOs optimistic on economy; wary of hiring

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Chief executives at the largest U.S. companies are much more optimistic about their sales prospects than they were three months ago, though many remain cautious about hiring.

The Business Roundtable said Wednesday that 72 percent of its members expect sales will increase in the next six months. That's up from 58 percent at the end of last year. And 38 percent plan to invest more in plant and equipment, up from 30 percent in October-December quar-

ter, when the Roundtable released its last report. Still, the better outlook hasn't made the group more optimistic about hiring. Twenty-nine percent of CEOs plan to increase hiring over the next six months, the same percentage as the last two

surveys. The executives are more comfortable with their current staffing levels and are less inclined to lay off workers. The percentage of CEOs planning to cut jobs fell to 25 percent from 29 percent, the second straight drop. □

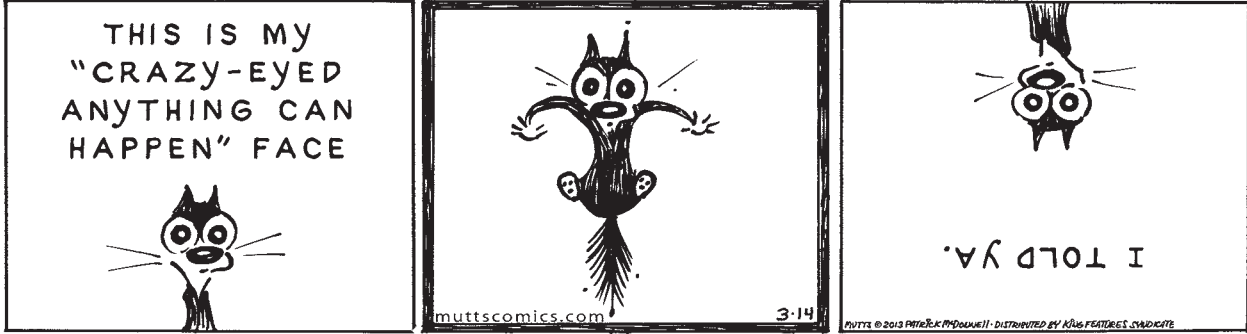
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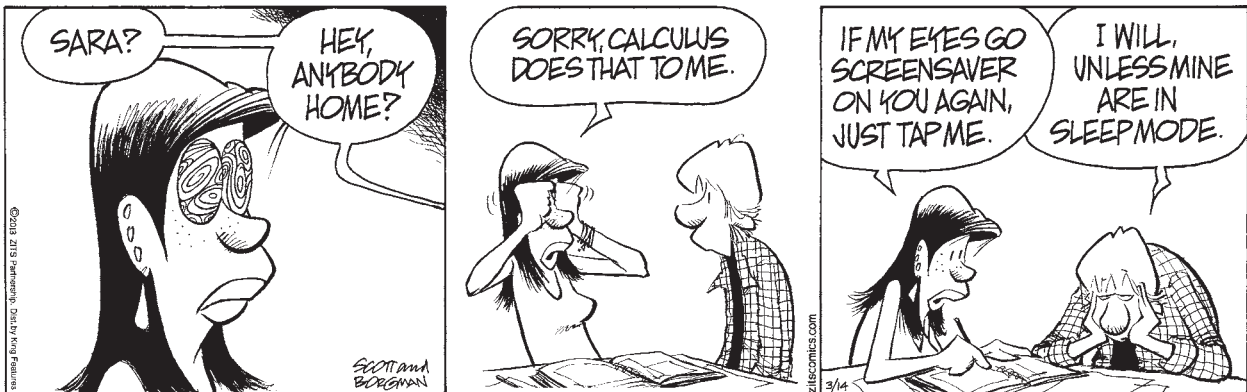
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			3				8	
6		8		2				
		7				6	9	
			2	3				7
	8						4	
4			8	1				
	7	5				2		
				6		9		1
	9			5				

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

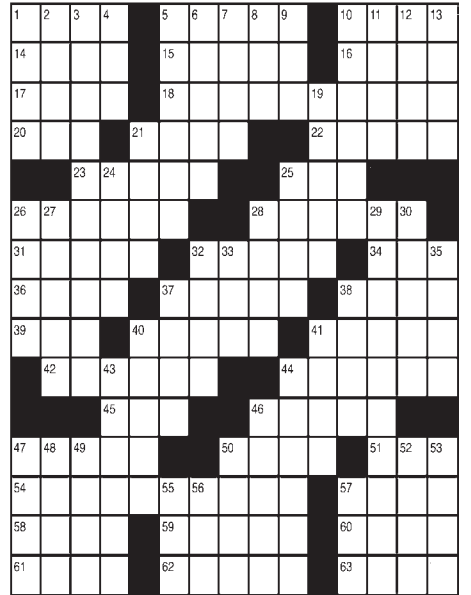
8	4	1	5	6	3	7	2	9
7	2	6	1	9	4	8	3	5
5	3	9	8	2	7	1	4	6
1	9	4	2	3	5	6	8	7
2	8	3	7	1	6	9	5	4
6	5	7	4	8	9	3	1	2
9	6	5	3	4	1	2	7	8
3	7	2	6	5	8	4	9	1
4	1	8	9	7	2	5	6	3

ACROSS

- Lean-to
- Metal bars
- Fair; equitable
- Peru's capital
- More peculiar
- Largest continent
- Genesis man
- Department store employee
- Stein or Stiller
- Salary
- Steed
- Task
- Spot on dice or dominoes
- Home for a Franciscan
- Unwanted nasal growths
- Quick
- Thin porridge
- Ooh and __; express delight
- Office; room for the desk of the president
- Shortcoming
- Magazine title
- Acquire
- Doughnut-shaped roll
- Narrow boat
- Finds out
- Wolf's cousin
- Use a shovel
- frutti
- Naval warrant officer, for short
- "Bonanza" role
- JFK's follower
- Teen
- Entreaty
- Cowboy's shoe
- Welsh __; dog with a fox head
- Listen
- __ and crafts
- "I Left My Heart in San Francisco"
- Riles

DOWN

- Thick slice
- Conceal
- Set free
- Water barrier



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

BASTE	STEP	MAMA
ULTRA	THAI	AGES
SMEAR	OATS	TERN
HAMILTON	CRINGE	
TIED	REENTER	
WORSER	AISLE	
ONO	ROARS	YEAST
WILL	RIDER	SOLO
STOOL	DORIS	NUN
LONER	LINERS	
APPLAUD	FLEE	
ERRING	PASSWORD	
SOAP	GRAB	TEHEE
ONTO	EARL	ASIAN
PEEP	TYKE	STORY

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- Seawater
- Lions & tigers
- Grown-ups
- Bieber or Timberlake
- Island kingdom east of Fiji
- "Ali" and the Forty Thieves
- Aroma
- Flue residue
- His and
- Bird's bill
- Jolts
- fi; film genre
- Felon, for short
- Fraternity letter



Classifieds

Kickstarting a collection and career

ERIC WILSON

© 2013 New York Times

Since he was fired from Gap in May 2011, and with still-fresh wounds from his days at Perry Ellis and Paco Rabanne, Patrick Robinson checked out of fashion for a while.

He went backpacking in national parks, at Yellowstone and Acadia and Yosemite, where the snow was still deep when he visited last June. It was cold. He said he awoke one morning to find a deer snoozing outside his tent.

It was here that Robinson, now 46, began to have a vision for what his next step would be. Though he was a popular designer with a skill for turning around the image of once-heralded labels, the corporate world had not always been kind to him. After four years of trying to refresh Gap, with its 1,000-plus stores and its inherent discomfort with trendy fashion, he gave up. "I did learn a lot about running a big business," he said. Now Robinson is returning on his own terms, or more accurately, on yours. This week, he is introducing a collection of performance apparel designed for urban environments, seeking financing through the crowd-funding site Kickstarter. He has designed about 19 styles to start, but if you don't like them, just tell Robinson and he'll change them. Eventually, he will take suggestions on his own site.

"I wanted to have a direct connection with the customer," Robinson said. "I am only going to show the prototypes, which will only get made if people pre-order them." Robinson did not want to put his own name on the label, calling that approach old-fashioned. His line is instead called Paskho, an ancient Greek word. On his journey here, Robinson discovered that he liked to challenge



A model wears a look by designer Patrick Robinson. Robinson is using the crowd-funding site Kickstarter to finance a new line of clothes. (Handout via The New York Times)

himself, physically and mentally, and this was why he decided to focus on

functional athletic-inspired clothing, with styles for men and women. □

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Monarch butterflies drop ominously in Mexico

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The amount of Monarch butterflies wintering in Mexico dropped 59 percent this year, falling to the lowest level since comparable record-keeping began 20 years ago, scientists reported Wednesday.

It was the third straight year of declines for the orange-and-black butterflies that migrate from the United States and Canada to spend the winter in mountaintop fir forests in central Mexico. Six of the last seven years have shown drops, and there are now only one-fifteenth as many butterflies as there were in 1997.

The decline now marks a statistical long-term trend and can no longer be seen as a combination of yearly or seasonal events, the experts said.

But they differed on the possible causes.

Illegal logging in the reserve established in the Monarch wintering grounds was long thought to contribute, but such logging has



In this Dec. 9, 2011, file photo a Monarch butterfly sits on a tree trunk at the Sierra Chincua Sanctuary in the mountains of Mexico's Michoacan state.

Associated Press

been vastly reduced by increased protection, enforcement and alternative development programs in Mexico.

The World Wildlife Fund, one of the groups that sponsored the butterfly

census, blamed climate conditions and agricultural practices, especially the use of pesticides that kill off the Monarchs' main food source, milkweed. The butterflies breed and live in the north in the summer, and migrate to Mexico in the winter.

"The decrease of Monarch butterflies ... probably is due to the negative effects of reduction in milkweed and extreme variation in the United States and Canada," the fund and its partner organizations said in a statement.

Omar Vidal, the World Wildlife Fund director in Mexico, said: "The conservation of the Monarch butterfly is a shared responsibility between Mexico, the United States and Canada. By protecting the reserves and having practically eliminated large-scale illegal logging, Mexico has done its part."

"It is now necessary for the United States and Canada to do their part and protect the butterflies' habitat in their territories," Vidal said. Logging was once considered the main threat to the reserve, located west of Mexico City. At its peak in 2005, logging devastated as many as 1,140 acres annually in the reserve, which covers 193,000 acres. But a 2012 aerial survey showed almost no detectable logging, the first time that logging had not been found in detectable amounts since the mountaintop forests were declared a nature reserve in 2000.

Lincoln Brower, a leading entomologist at Sweet Briar College in Virginia, said in a statement that "the report of the dwindling Monarch butterfly winter residence in Mexico is ominous."

"This is not just the lowest population recorded in the 20 years for which we have

records," Brower said. "It is the continuation of a statistically significant decrease in the Monarch population that began at least a decade ago."

However, Brower differed on whether small-scale logging, the diversion of water resources and other disruptive activity in the reserves in Mexico are playing a role in the decline.

"To blame the low numbers of monarchs solely on what is happening north of Mexico is misleading," Brower said. "Herbicide of soybean and corn fields that kills milkweed is a serious problem, but the historical decline over the past 19 years has multiple causes."

"All three countries need to face up to the fact that it is our collective activities that are killing the migratory phenomenon of the Monarch butterfly," he said.

Environmentalist and writer Homero Aridjis praised Mexico for progress in reducing illegal logging, but added that "low intensity logging, not detected in satellite image analysis, continues unabated in and near critical overwintering habitats."

The head of Mexico's nature reserves, Luis Fuego, said there are still some problems to be solved at the wintering grounds in Mexico, including some scale-logging and water availability. The Monarchs don't drink any water throughout their long migration until they reach Mexico, and the mountain streams in the area have been affected by drought and human use.

The migration is an inherited trait. No butterfly lives to make the round-trip. The millions of Monarchs cluster so densely on tree boughs in the reserve that researchers don't count their individual numbers but rather measure the amount of forest they cover.

This winter, the butterflies covered just 2.93 acres, down from 7.14 acres last year. □

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In this July 17, 2006 file photo, Executive producer, Rob Thomas, left, answers questions about the upcoming season of "Veronica Mars" as actress Kristen Bell looks on during The CW's Television Critics Association press conference in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

'Veronica Mars' online fundraiser launches

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Veronica Mars" fans eager for a movie based on the TV series have a chance to put their money where their hopes are.

Series creator Rob Thomas launched an online crowd-funding campaign Wednesday to make a big-screen version of the show.

"Veronica Mars," which starred Kristen Bell as a young sleuth, ended its three-season run in 2007.

On the Kickstarter website, Thomas said the \$2 million fundraiser represents "our one shot to see a 'Veronica Mars' movie happen." More than 16,000 backers had pledged more than \$1.1 million within hours Wednesday.

Thomas said "Veronica Mars" owner Warner Bros. has given the project its blessing, and Bell and other cast members are ready to begin production this summer for a 2014 release. The fundraising campaign, which was confirmed by Thomas' representative at United Talent Agency, ends April 12.

Bell is back on TV in "House of Lies," the Showtime series starring Don Cheadle. She and several "Veronica Mars" cast members appear in a lighthearted video on Kickstarter in which they mull the prospect of reuniting.

Backers are eligible for various goodies, ranging from a PDF copy of the script to be sent on the day the film is released (for a \$10 pledge) to naming rights to a character (for \$8,000). An appearance in the movie, available to one \$10,000 contributor, was snapped up. Crowdsourcing has given filmmakers a new way to get always-elusive funding. At last month's Academy Awards, the short documentary "Inocente" became the first Kickstarter-funded film to win an Oscar. It received \$52,000 from 300 contributors. □

Actor Ed Asner, 83, treated for exhaustion

GARY, Indiana (AP) — Ed Asner's publicist says the 83-year-old actor, who has been touring the country performing a one-man show for more than three years, has been hospitalized with exhaustion.

Publicist Charles Sherman tells The Associated Press that Asner was taken off stage at the Marquette Pavilion in Gary, Ind., on Tuesday night.

Sherman says Asner was taken by ambulance to a Chicago-area hospital where he is "resting comfortably" and is expected to be released later Wednesday.

He says the actor, best



In this May 29, 2012 file photo, actor and former Screen Actors Guild President Ed Asner is interviewed in Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

known for his roles in TV's "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and its spinoff "Lou Grant," has been touring the nation portraying President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in "FDR" for 3 1/2 years. □

Eva Longoria is busy post-'Desperate Housewives'



In this Thursday, March 7, 2013 photo, chosen as the face of the new SHEBA global campaign "Follow Your Passion," actress and executive producer Eva Longoria poses for a portrait, in New York

Associated Press

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Eva Longoria hasn't slowed down since "Desperate Housewives" signed off after eight seasons last year. In fact, the actress says the word "lazy" isn't in her vocabulary.

"There are days when I relax but it won't be a full day. It usually means I'm gonna clean out my closet.

That's relaxing for me. Or I'm gonna cook a full meal for my family and friends," Longoria, who will be 38 on Friday, said in a recent interview.

Longoria said she has no problem juggling various projects. "I always say there's more time in the day than you think. You waste a lot of time that you don't realize," she said. "When I was on 'Desperate Housewives,' I learned two languages. I went back to school for my master's degree, I was married (to San Antonio Spurs point guard Tony Parker) and flying back and forth (between Los Angeles and Texas). You have time."

Her passions also include philanthropy and politics. She's committed to encouraging Latin women to further their education and start entrepreneurial programs. She also founded Eva's Heroes, dedicated to teens and young adults with special needs.

She just wrapped up filming on "Frontera," alongside Ed Harris and Michael Pena, and has endorsement deals with L'Oreal, Frito-Lay and Sheba.

Longoria is also an executive producer on two upcoming TV shows.

On "Ready for Love," a reality dating show that will air on NBC, three matchmakers help three men find love.

Longoria says she hand-picked each of the three eligible guys.

They're "not only handsome and successful, but generous, kind and sweet human beings. ... They'll forever be friends in my life," she said.

She's also one of the executive producers of "Devious Maids," alongside "Desperate Housewives" creator Mark Cherry. Based on a Mexican series, it follows four maids who work in Beverly Hills but dream of their own success. The show will air on Lifetime.

While she's enjoying TV production, Longoria said, "I love the medium of television. I'll definitely be back. I'll definitely come back one day." □



Arkin and Carell make magic in 'Wonderstone'



In this Monday, March 11, 2013 photo, Alan Arkin, left, and Steve Carell pose for a portrait for the film, "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone," at the Hotel Amarano, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer
BURBANK, Calif. (AP) — Alan Arkin is Steve Carell's idol, in reality and in their new movie. The 78-year-old Oscar winner plays the master magician who helps Carell's character find his life's calling in "The Incredible Burt Wonderstone." And Carell, a producer of the film, had everything to do with that. "When I read it, I immediately thought Alan Arkin has to play this part," he said. "If I could do every movie with him, I would." The two actors lit up an empty suite at a hotel down the street from Warner Bros. studios with their warm rapport, reminiscing about working together on "Wonderstone" and their past projects, "Get Smart" and "Little Miss Sunshine" (for which Arkin won the supporting actor Oscar). "The thing about working with Steve is I can't look at him anymore," Arkin said. "I could look at him in the first movie. The second movie I had a little bit of trouble. By the third movie I can't look at him. If I'm doing a scene with him, I have to focus over here (he looks

just past Carell). It gets embarrassing." It's easy for Arkin and Carell to make each other laugh. Carell cracked up when Arkin explained why he refused to learn any tricks for his role as elderly magician Rance Holloway, whose at-home magic kit inspires the young Wonderstone to learn the art of illusion. "See, I don't give a damn anymore," Arkin said. "I'm going to die soon. It doesn't matter. I say anything that comes." "The magician came over to me on the first day and said we have to work. I said get away from me. Don't get anywhere near me," Arkin recalled. "I said for me to learn what I'm supposed to do in this movie would have taken me four years. I said it's not going to happen. Just keep away from me. I said they'll do it in CGI and that's enough." With a cast that includes Steve Buscemi, Olivia Wilde, Jim Carrey and James Gandolfini, it was hard not to laugh on set. "Every day something fun happened," Carell said. "It's crucial that the audience feels that sense that you did something to-

gether," Arkin said. "That's why, whenever I see a flash mob, I start sobbing. It's art that's just done for the sheer joy of it. There's nothing to gain from it. It's just to have fun. It's deeply healing." That feeling permeated the set. Carell said Buscemi was "buoyant" in the days before shooting began. "He already had that sense of joy," he said. "He was doing it for the fun of it. He has nothing to show, nothing to gain, nothing to prove as an actor. He did it for the fun and the joy of it. I love that as a producer." Carell plays Burt Wonderstone, a stage magician with big hair, a chest-baring costume and an out-sized ego that could fill a showroom on its own. With his partner, Anton Marvelton (Buscemi), Wonderstone rules the Las Vegas strip. But a guerrilla street magician (Carrey) touting a new brand of extreme magic threatens his reign, forcing Wonderstone to re-examine his approach. Carell was drawn to the character because he wanted to play "an absolute jerk." □

New food book gives readers a lot to digest



This book cover image released by Random House shows "Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us," by Michael Moss.

Associated Press

JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

"Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us" (Random House), by Michael Moss. A can of Coke contains roughly nine teaspoons of sugar. Lunchables were created as a way to revive a flagging interest in bologna. People like chips that snap with about four pounds of pressure per square inch. Those are just some of the nuggets of information Michael Moss feeds readers in his new book about the food industry, "Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us." But while the book is sprinkled with food facts, Moss doesn't just want to entertain. Instead, he systematically shows readers how processed food makers manipulate their goods to get consumers to buy, often at the expense of their health. Moss takes readers on a grocery store tour through the lens of three key ingredients: salt, sugar and fat. By the time he's done, a host of iconic American products, from Oreos to Hot Pockets and spaghetti sauce to soda, don't look so appetizing. Moss goes the distance, literally, in researching the tactics companies use to create craving for their products. In Libertyville, Ill.,

he inspects the cheese in the refrigerator of a former cheese expert with Kraft. In Hopkins, Minn., he visits the headquarters of one food industry supplier that sells 40 different types of processed salt, one that's perfect for popcorn to others used in soups and cheese. And at a noted food lab in Philadelphia, he watches a 6-year-old down a series of different vanilla puddings to determine her perfect sweetness level, something called her "bliss point." Along the way, Moss meets tastemakers from former leaders at Coca-Cola and Frito-Lay to the creators of Cheez Whiz and instant pudding. What he learns is enough to give readers serious indigestion. Companies often add salt to products rather than fresh herbs, which have the same effect, because it's cheaper. Coca-Cola says it won't market to kids under 12, but the company targets them anyway by advertising at amusement parks and sports venues. One ice cream maker cites scientific research that "ice cream makes you happy," but even the scientist who did the study sheepishly downplays the results. Moss, a Pulitzer Prize-winning New York Times reporter, is at his best when he's acting like a journalist: talking to people, sifting through and explaining documents, and writing with finger-licking flair. There are places, however, when he can feel like a lecturer repeating his salt, sugar, fat mantra until you want to scream: "I get it!" Moss doesn't really offer solutions for getting companies to produce healthier products. The companies argue they're producing what Americans want, and Americans seem to agree by continuing to buy them. In the end, his message is about personal responsibility. We're the ones who decide what we put in our shopping carts — and in our mouths. □

Dwindling Deficit Disorder



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

For three years and more, policy debate in Washington has been dominated by warnings about the dangers of budget deficits. A few lonely economists have tried from the beginning to point out that this fixation is all wrong, that deficit spending is actually appropriate in a depressed economy.

But even though the deficit scolds have been wrong about everything so far – where are the soaring interest rates we were promised? – protests that we are having the wrong conversation have consistently fallen on deaf ears.

What's really remarkable at this point, however, is the persistence of the deficit fixation in the face of rapidly changing facts. People still talk as if the deficit were exploding, as if the U.S. budget were on an unsustainable path; in fact, the deficit is falling more rapidly than it has for generations, it is already down to sustainable levels, and it is too small given the state of the economy.

Start with the raw numbers. America's budget deficit soared after the 2008 financial crisis and the recession that went with it, as revenue plunged and spending on unemployment benefits and other safety-net programs rose. And this rise in the deficit was a good thing! Federal spending helped sustain the economy at a time when the private sector was in panicked retreat; arguably, the stabilizing role of a large government was the main reason the Great Recession didn't turn into a full replay of the Great Depression.

But after peaking in 2009 at \$1.4 trillion, the deficit began coming down.

The Congressional Budget Office expects the deficit for fiscal 2013 (which began in October and is almost half over) to be \$845 billion.

That may still sound like a big number, but given the state of the economy it really isn't.

Bear in mind that the budget doesn't have to be balanced to put us on a fiscally sustainable path; all we need is a deficit small enough that debt grows more slowly than the economy. To take the classic example, America never did pay off the debt from World War II – in fact, our debt doubled in the 30 years that followed the war.

But debt as a percentage of GDP fell by three-quarters over the same period.

Right now, a sustainable deficit would be around \$460 billion.

The actual deficit is bigger than that. But according to new estimates by the budget office, half of our current deficit reflects the effects of a still-depressed economy.

The "cyclically adjusted" deficit – what the deficit would be if we were near full employment – is only about \$423 billion, which puts it in the sustainable range; next year the budget office expects that number to fall to just \$172 billion. And that's why budget office projections show the nation's debt position more or less stable over the next decade.

So we do not, repeat do not, face any kind of deficit crisis either now or for years to come. There are, of course, longer-term fiscal issues: Rising health costs and an aging population will put the budget under growing pressure over the course of the 2020s.

But I have yet to see any coherent explanation of why these longer-run concerns should determine budget policy right now.

And as I said, given the needs of the economy, the deficit is currently too small.

Put it this way: Smart fiscal policy involves having the government spend when the private sector won't, supporting the economy when it is weak and reducing debt only when it is strong. Yet the cyclically adjusted deficit as a share of GDP is currently about what it was in 2006, at the height of the housing boom – and it is headed down.

Yes, we'll want to reduce deficits once the economy recovers, and there are gratifying signs that a solid recovery is finally under way. But unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, is still unacceptably high.

"The boom, not the slump, is the time for austerity," John Maynard Keynes declared many years ago.

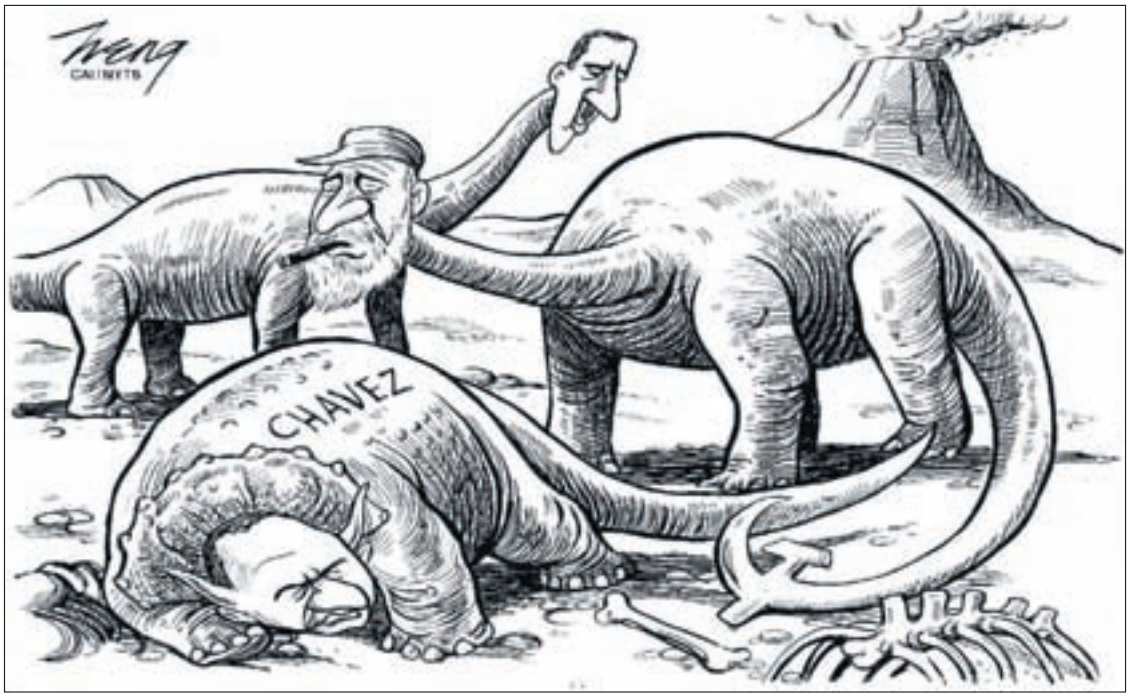
He was right – all you have to do is look at Europe to see the disastrous effects of austerity on weak economies.

And this is still nothing like a boom.

Now, I'm aware that the facts about our dwindling deficit are unwelcome in many quarters. Fiscal fearmongering is a major industry inside the Beltway, especially among those looking for excuses to do what they really want, namely dismantle Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

People whose careers are heavily invested in the deficit-sold industry don't want to let evidence undermine their scare tactics; as the deficit dwindles, we're sure to encounter a blizzard of bogus numbers purporting to show that we're still in some kind of fiscal crisis.

But we aren't. The deficit is indeed dwindling, and the case for making the deficit a central policy concern, which was never very strong given low borrowing costs and high unemployment, has now completely vanished. □



No To Keystone. Yes To Crazy



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2013 New York Times I hope the president turns down the Keystone XL oil pipeline. (Who wants the U.S. to facilitate the dirtiest extraction of the dirtiest crude from tar sands in Canada's far north?) But I don't think he will. So I hope that Bill McKibben and his 350.org coalition go crazy. I'm talking chain-themselves-to-the-White-House-fence-stop-traffic-at-the-Capitol kind of crazy, because I think if we all make enough noise about this, we might be able to trade a lousy Keystone pipeline for some really good systemic responses to climate change. We don't get such an opportunity often – namely, a second-term Democratic president who is under heavy pressure to approve a pipeline to create some jobs but who also has a green base that he can't ignore. So cue up the protests, and pay no attention to people counseling rational and mature behavior. We need the president to be able to say to the GOP oil lobby, "I'm going to approve this, but it will kill me with my base. Sasha and Malia won't even be talking to me, so I've got to get something really big in return."

Face it: The last four years have been a net setback for the green movement. While President Barack Obama deserves real praise for passing a historic increase in vehicle mileage efficiency and limits on the emissions of new coal-fired power plants, the president also chose to remove the term "climate change" from his public discourse and kept his talented team of environmentalists in a witness-protection program, banning them from the climate

debate. This silence coincided with record numbers of extreme weather events – droughts and floods – and with a huge structural change in the energy marketplace.

What was that change? Put simply, all of us who had hoped that scientific research and new technologies would find cheaper ways to provide carbon-free energy at scale – wind, solar, bio, nuclear – to supplant fossil fuels failed to anticipate that new technologies (particularly hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling at much greater distances) would produce new, vastly cheaper ways to tap natural gas trapped in shale as well as crude oil previously thought unreachable, making cleaner energy alternatives much less competitive.

It's great that shale gas is replacing coal as a source of electricity, since it generates less than half the carbon dioxide. As the oil economist Philip Verleger Jr. notes in the latest edition of the journal *International Economy*, these breakthroughs will also lead to much more oil and gas at lower prices, which will help American consumers, manufacturers and jobs. But, he adds, "it will be harder and harder to push for renewable energy programs as hydrocarbon prices fall," and "the new technologies that allow us to tap shale oil and shale gas could release vast quantities of methane" if not done properly. Methane released in the atmosphere contributes much more to climate change than CO(TWO).

If Keystone gets approved, environmentalists should have a long shopping list ready, starting with a price signal that discourages the use of carbon-intensive fuels in favor of low-carbon energy. Nothing would do more to clean our air, drive clean-tech innovation, weaken petro-dictators and reduce the deficit than a carbon tax. One prays this will become part of the budget debate. Also, the president can use his authority under the Clean Air Act to order reductions in CO(TWO) emissions from existing coal power plants

and refiners by, say, 25 percent. He could then do with the power companies what he did with autos: negotiate with them over the fairest way to achieve that reduction in different parts of the country. We also need to keep the president's feet to the fire on the vow in his State of the Union address to foster policies that could "cut in half the energy wasted by our homes and businesses over the next 20 years." About 30 percent of energy in buildings is wasted.

Finally, the president could make up for Keystone by introducing into the public discourse the concept of "natural infrastructure," argues Mark Tercek, the president and chief executive of The Nature Conservancy, and the co-author of "Nature's Fortune: How Business and Society Thrive by Investing in Nature."

"Forests, wetlands and other ecosystems are nature's infrastructure for controlling floods, supplying water, and doing other things we need to adapt to climate change," Tercek wrote in an email. "Before Hurricane Sandy, Cape May, N.J., had the foresight to restore its dunes and wetlands to provide storm protection and wildlife habitat. When Sandy struck, Cape May was spared the damage that neighboring towns suffered."

Since the president is rightly calling for infrastructure investment, which makes sense at a time of high unemployment, added Tercek, "he should emphasize natural infrastructure as well. Federal programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Farm Bill can be expanded to make communities more resilient; changes in the tax code and other federal rules can incentivize private investment."

So, sure, we need to be realistic about our near-term dependence on fossil fuels, or we will pay a big price. But we also need to be realistic about the need to keep building a bridge to a different energy future, or we will pay an even bigger price. Let's make sure we don't forget the latter in the Keystone debate. □

Hectic Times Square remains a developers' paradise

JULIE SATOW

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NEW YORK – Some two decades ago, New York City began a huge cleanup of its downtrodden theater district, vastly improving the fortunes of the pedestrian-clogged Times Square neighborhood. In recent months, that progress has gone into high gear, with rents reaching new highs and several redevelopment projects proceeding. Reflecting rising demand, asking retail rents topped \$2,400 a square foot in the fourth quarter of 2012, a jump of nearly 42 percent from a year earlier and second only to rents on Fifth Avenue, according to CBRE, a commercial real estate brokerage.

Ground is scheduled to be broken this year on an \$800 million, 39-story hotel and retail complex at the northern edge of Times Square, and plans for a \$140 million renovation of the retail beneath the New York Marriott Marquis Times Square are also under way.

Each day 370,000 pedestrians traipse through the Times Square bow tie, where Broadway and Seventh Avenue intersect, and each year shoppers spend \$6.5 billion in the area's stores, according to the Times Square Alliance. That spending has contributed to the skyrocketing retail rents.

"Rents in the area are approaching Fifth Avenue levels, and while a lot of this is due to the cleanup that began in the 1990s, even more is due to the massive influx of tourists over the last few years," said Faith Hope Consolo, chairwoman of the retail group at Douglas Elliman Real Estate. "We expect more than 54 million this year."

In the wake of such demand, developers are snatching up properties and repositioning buildings to create additional supply.

One of the largest projects is at 701 Seventh Ave., where a building will be razed and replaced by 85,000 square feet of retail space and a 500-room



The 701 Seventh Avenue building, center, which will be razed and replaced by 85,000 square feet of retail space and a 500-room Marriott Edition boutique hotel, in Times Square in New York, March 10, 2013.

(James Estrin/The New York Times)

Marriott Edition boutique hotel.

The retail space, which will feature 25-foot glass storefronts, will be spread across the first four floors and two basement levels,

and 40,000 square feet on the seventh and eighth floors will be set aside for an event space, club, several restaurants and 6,000 square feet of terraces. The building will have a

20,000-square-foot LED sign on its facade.

"There were plenty of people who were trying to buy this site, but they wanted to break ground immediately to capture the white-hot retail market," said Steven C. Witkoff, whose firm, the Witkoff Group, is a partner in the project with Howard M. Lorber's New Valley LLC and the investors Winthrop Realty Trust and Maefield Development. "In our case, we felt this was a mixed-use project, and we went out and landed a hotel deal." Activity also is occurring along side streets. At the former headquarters of The New York Times, the landlord Africa Israel is increasing marketing efforts for the last two available retail spaces at the building.

Africa Israel bought the building in 2007 for \$525 million and, in 2011, sold the top 11 floors to the Blackstone Group in a \$160 million office condominium deal. Blackstone has signed two leases totaling less than 60,000 square feet and has an additional 420,000 square feet available at the building.

"We are waiting to see how quickly Blackstone will lease the office space above us, since obviously we want them to lease it up, as that

will help us get better terms on the retail," said Tamir Kazaz, chief executive of Africa Israel USA.

With so much potential for retail, James B. Buslik, a principal at Adams & Co., began converting many retail tenants to month-to-month leases rather than signing long-term agreements.

"Two years ago I would make 10-year leases, but now I am letting my store tenants do short-term deals to give myself the option to create something interesting when the time arises," he said.

While the retail market in Times Square is certainly the highlight, office leasing is also thriving. Deals in the Times Square submarket, bounded by West 42nd Street and West 49th, the Avenue of the Americas and Ninth Avenue, accounted for nearly 20 percent of all office leasing activity in midtown Manhattan last year, compared with just 5.2 percent in 2011, according to Cresa New York, a brokerage for commercial tenants.

Asking rents were \$63.26 a square foot in the fourth quarter of 2012, a 6 percent increase over \$59.62 in the fourth quarter of 2011, according to CBRE. □



A rendering of what the 701 Seventh Avenue building in Times Square will look like after renovations. As pedestrian traffic and consumer spending have increased in Times Square, more major development projects are being undertaken in the area.

(ARX Solutions via The New York Times)